



GILLIAN'S PLACE
empowering abused women of niagara

4  YEARS

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Message from the President & Executive Director



MISSION STATEMENT

To empower women and their children fleeing abuse by providing safety, support, and a range of services and to raise awareness about root causes to end the cycle of violence and abuse.

AS WE CELEBRATE 40 YEARS of Women's Place (St. Catharines & District) Inc – now Gillian's Place - we recognize and acknowledge how far we've come. Looking back over our 40 years, the nation has changed in many ways. Before the 1980's, police often viewed domestic violence as an issue to be dealt with privately, behind closed doors, as there was no law stating otherwise. Only a few years after Women's Place opened its doors as the first women's shelter in Niagara and one of the first in Ontario, that decade saw legislative changes bring into effect wife assault policies, and in 1983 making marital rape illegal. Our community outreach efforts over the past four decades, in addition to development of strong partnerships with the Niagara Regional Police Service and fellow social service organizations throughout Niagara, allow more women to escape domestic violence and find safety and assistance at Gillian's Place.

To accommodate the growing need for our services, we've made two crucial facility moves, to find us in our current home, since 2007, on Gibson Place in St. Catharines. The heritage Victoria School was converted to become our current 18 bedroom, 34 bed facility, which too often finds itself at capacity. This past year we've seen 163 women and 121 children living in our shelter, up 10% and 9% respectively from the previous year. Due to the increased need and limited shelter capacity, we had to redirect 5 women in need of our services this past year. These, along with other statistics you'll find in this Annual Report, indicate that the occurrences of domestic violence are not decreasing and our services are still vital to the community.



SHELTER & OUTREACH SERVICE NUMBERS 2016-17

We didn't get here alone. The ongoing and growing support from the community is the reason we're able to offer the level of service that we do, with our dedicated team of qualified and caring staff. Over our 40 years, donors have contributed a significant part of our annual revenue, allowing Gillian's Place to maintain our commitment to ending violence against women. Our 40th year was no different, and thanks to a legacy gift of \$85,000, we saw an increase in donor and fundraising support by 32% over the previous year. This speaks volumes to how Gillian's Place is viewed throughout the Region, and to the number of allies we have standing alongside the organization. With a goal-breaking Walk-A-Mile in Her Shoes event in October 2016, this twelve year old fundraiser has raised over \$600,000 to date, and doesn't seem to be shrinking in cachet and support from the men of Niagara.

Our Community Development Team brought back a previous fundraising event in February 2017, Eve Ensler's play "The Vagina Monologues," which was performed by volunteer women from throughout the community. We were fortunate to feature this event at the new FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre in St. Catharines. The nearly sold-out, powerful performances raised over \$70,000 and included 30 volunteers in the creation of the performance, supported by our staff.

It's clear that there is still more work to do. We've committed to a Strategic Plan that will shape the next few years of our organization's activity to better serve our clients and the community. What never has and never will change is Gillian's Place's commitment to providing services and support so that women and children in St. Catharines and North Niagara can live free of abuse.


Jennifer Wallace
Board President


Tanja Loeb
Executive Director

 **2296**
CRISIS CALLS
were answered

 **284**
lived in the shelter
163 WOMEN
121 CHILDREN

5 WERE REDIRECTED
due to no available space

1576 **TOTAL SERVED**
through outreach
services

568 WOMEN
obtained legal advice and advocacy

232 WOMEN
received crisis outreach counselling

169 WOMEN
received transitional support

105 CHILDREN
exposed to woman abuse were seen by
our Child & Youth Counsellors

502 WOMEN
received help from our Domestic
Violence Consultants, located at Family
& Children's Services Niagara.
707 children were impacted

1977 FACTS

World Population
4,230,000,000

Population of Canada
23,727,000

Prime Minister
Pierre Elliott Trudeau

COSTS OF LIVING IN 1977

Median Household Income
\$10,671

Typical Home Price
\$58,473.00

Average New Car
\$4,645.00

Gallon of Milk
\$1.04

Litre of Gas
\$0.21

Loaf of Bread
\$0.32

Postage Stamp
\$0.13

LIFE IN 1977

TOP 10 TV SHOWS OF 1977

1. Laverne & Shirley
2. Happy Days
3. Three's Company
4. Charlie's Angels
5. All in the Family
6. 60 Minutes
7. Little House on the Prairie
8. M*A*S*H
9. Alice
10. One Day at a Time

TOP 10 HITS OF 1977

1. Dancing Queen – Abba
2. We Will Rock You – Queen
3. Brick House – Commodores
4. Got to Give it Up – Marvin Gaye
5. Disco Inferno – The Trammps
6. Hotel California – Eagles
7. After the Lovin – Englebert Humperdinck
8. Margaritaville – Jimmy Buffett
9. The Greatest Love of All – George Benson
10. Don't Stop – Fleetwood Mac

NOTABLE MOVIES

Rocky
Star Wars
Saturday Night Fever
King Kong

1970s FADS

Platform Shoes
Lava Lamp
Farrah Fawcett Hair-do
Pong
Bell Bottoms
Simon Game

BEST SELLING BOOKS OF 1977

1. The Simarillion – J.R.R. Tolkien
2. The Shining – Stephen King
3. The Honourable Schoolboy – John Le Carre
4. The Thorn Birds – Colleen McCullough
5. Lord Foul's Bane – Stephen R. Donaldson

THESE ARE



MOMENTS

THAT CHANGED US. THAT DEFINED US.



"The days
are long.
But the years
are short."

Some will make your heart sink. Others will make it smile. Some will do both. These are milestones, stories and reflections from our past, present and into our future. These are the moments in time since 1977 that make us who we are. It brings us much joy to celebrate our 40th anniversary by sharing these moments with you.

Thank you to each and every donor, volunteer, activist and friend... you support us, encourage us and challenge us. And thank you to the women who have reached out to us in trust, and to those we have yet to meet – it is your courage that teaches us, motivates us, and that gives us pause every single day.

1 NIAGARA'S FIRST "HAVEN FOR WOMEN"

The first moment that changed us happened before we were even "Women's Place". An organization in St. Catharines called Women's Resource Centre discovered that Niagara women in abusive relationships were unable to find help locally and were seeking it out of town. From there, plans got underway to establish Women's Place – a haven for women where they could also bring their children. Somewhere safe to escape to while they figured out their next steps and where they could receive practical help along the way. So a committee was formed and this small but mighty group opened the doors to their rented house on Salina Street in St. Catharines, with a \$48,000 grant from Canada Works. An ordinary house, with no security features, run by a small staff of 4. And, the first night the doors opened, all 8 beds were full. Though most everyone in the Region agreed that this haven was necessary, no one wanted it in their neighbourhood. In fact, the Yates-Ontario Association, a small community that surrounded the location on Salina Street, fought for 2 years to have the neighbourhood rezoned to prevent Women's Place from continuing. Fears of "kids running wild, and husbands showing up at 4am yelling and swearing on the street", led one neighbour to comment "They wouldn't dare try dumping that thing on South Drive, or some other good residential area. Well, we don't want it either!" Thankfully, the Niagara Community went on to embrace us, and the work that we are doing to end violence against women.

FEAR ANGRY, NOISY HUSBANDS

Area property owners plan fight over location of women's haven

By ED MCKENZIE
Standard Reporter

The Battle of Salina Street is under way.

The integrity of a neighbourhood, and the well-being of women who find their only safe haven in this town, are at stake.

At least that's the way those involved see it, as the city approaches for a woman's shelter to be opened in downtown St. Catharines.

The organizers of the haven, which would be the first in Niagara, plan to move into a two-story house at 9 Salina St., just off Ontario, at the beginning of the town.

But members of the Yates-Ontario Area Residents' Association — fearing the move would create several problems in their neighbourhood — say they'll fight to keep it out.

The house is to be called Women's Place. It would provide a temporary home for women who have been abused, either by themselves or their husbands, and find more permanent accommodations for them.

The women and their children could stay for up to six weeks, while they try to find a permanent home.

The neighbours fear a variety of troubles — everything from a shortage of parking places to kids running around wild and husbands showing up at 4 a.m. shouting and swearing on the street.

They complain they already have to put up with a stream of trucks and heavy machinery coming to the nearby steel center on Adams Street.

And they say they don't want another institution "hanging on them" as they try to make their neighbourhood a nice one for themselves and their families to live in.

Robert Peterson, head of the Yates-Ontario Association, says his group has been trying for the past two years to get the district rezoned to include commercial enterprises and places like the haven.

But Mrs. Avery, director of Women's Place, says her group has the endorsement of many agencies, and she feels the haven is a good thing.

She says that in recent weeks, she has had two or three calls a week, and she has had to make them elsewhere until she can get started. But she promises the number of residents will be limited to 10.

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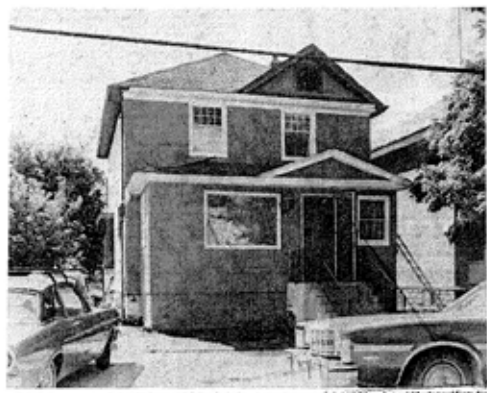
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2

BASIC RIGHTS FOR ALL HUMAN BEINGS

If someone treats you in an unfair or negative way because of your sex, race or age, they would be guilty of discrimination. But before 1977, there was no federal law to turn to when a person believed they were being discriminated against. Then in 1977, Parliament created the *Canadian Human Rights Act*. It was the first federal human rights law in Canada, and the first federal law against discrimination. But, this did not change women's rights under the law. It wasn't until 1980 that women saw their biggest chance to change their legal standing. Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau unveiled his plan for a new charter of rights, to protect Canadians from unfair government action. It was crucial to have women included in the new charter, but this did not come easily. It was a hard fought battle, but on April 17, 1982 Canadian women were victorious when the "equality clause" was added to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Section 28 read, "Notwithstanding anything in this Charter, the rights and freedoms referred to in it are guaranteed equally to male and female persons." And the charter soon became an instrument for change: In 1985, Native women who had been denied equal rights under the Indian Act won full status under the charter.



3

*based on the Duluth Model

"POWER AND CONTROL"

Stories we heard from the women in our home were gut-wrenching. Here we were, the founders of a women's shelter, horrified and shocked by the extent of the violence taking place behind closed doors. We knew women were trapped in marriages with men who were violent, but we didn't know how deep it went – our neighbours were being tortured while their children watched. And not just physically. We were learning, for the first time, about power and control and how it fuels the cycle of abuse.

4

DINNER IS SERVED

It became apparent early on that food makes where you live feel like a home. Women were encouraged to participate in meal time, by helping with the grocery list to ensure that we had culturally appropriate and family-friendly comfort foods. It was also about this time, that we hired a full time kitchen manager to not only prepare healthy and delicious meals, but to help equip women with the tools to continue healthy cooking when they moved on to their new homes.



Before and after photos from our kitchen renovation

5 GILLIAN'S PLACE IS A SAFE SPACE

As an organization, ensuring that our services are accessible to any woman who needs them is critically important to us. Our staff have undergone training and taken initiative to better understand the nuances of abuse in LGBTQ2+ relationships. Gillian's Place is, and will continue to be, a safe space for all women and children: ratified in policy, practiced every day.



OH, BABY!

Our first Gillian's Place baby was born in the early 1980s. While Mom was at the hospital, the staff were pacing the halls at home waiting for the news. Since then, we've had at least 20 beautiful bundles of joy whose first-ever home was Gillian's Place.



Women hear "you're safe now" in their mother tongue. Our connection to interpretive services means that we can speak to women in more than 90 different languages every single day.

8 HANDS ACROSS THE WORLD

"Violence against women and girls is a human rights violation, public health pandemic and serious obstacle to sustainable development. It imposes large-scale costs on families, communities and economies."

The world cannot afford to pay this price."

- Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General



Since 1981, women's activists had marked November 25th as a day against violence in response to the brutal assassination of three sisters who were political activists in the Dominican Republic. In 1999, the United Nations called upon governments, international organizations and NGO's to organize activities designed to raise public awareness of violence against women, and this day is now recognized globally as the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**.

9 MARITAL RAPE BECOMES ILLEGAL IN 1983

As part of our work to end abuse, it has always been important to us to fight for legislation to keep pace with changing attitudes about the role of women in society. 6 long years after we opened our doors to abused women, the law changed, making it illegal for a man to rape his wife.

10

IT'S TIME TO MOVE

In 1983 we faced facts: we needed more beds and we needed better security. Our move to Centre Street brought our capacity to 24 beds. We had security cameras, metal doors and bullet resistant glass installed for our clients' safety. Our residents shared a stall-style bathroom and children slept in pull-out trundle beds with their mothers, but they were safe.



Ribbon cutting at Centre Street location



Child and Youth Room

11

A PLACE TO PLAY

For years, children at Women's Place made do with toys and activities in quiet corners throughout the shelter. We were among the first to recognize that children who witness or experience abuse need care, love and counselling to heal. In the mid- 1980s we implemented a formal Child & Youth Program, and created a dedicated play space for children. This moment changed us, and the children who have lived here, forever.

12

THE WIFE ASSAULT POLICY

Before the 1980s, violence against women was largely considered to be a private matter, best kept behind closed doors.

Legislation – both criminal and family – to respond to violence against women was limited. Often, the police response tended towards the dismissive with the responding officer asking the woman, while she was in the presence of her abuser, whether she wanted to lay charges against him. For reasons that are obvious to us now, many women declined, and few perpetrators of woman abuse were arrested or charged. In the 1980s, government at both the federal and provincial levels began to recognize that violence against women was a serious social problem requiring a legislative response. Over this decade, various "mandatory charging" policies came into effect across Canada. These policies directed police officers to lay charges in domestic violence cases where the police officer believed there was evidence to support such a charge. This approach removed the responsibility for making this decision from the woman who was scared, confused, and in crisis, and placed it properly with the police.



13 OUR FIRST VOLUNTEERS

"I volunteered at Women's Place in the early '80s, shortly after the new building on Centre Street opened. In those days there were limited staff and volunteers often worked alone and took on what would now be considered staff roles - conducting intake, answering the door, ensuring security measures, cooking with the residents, etc.

It was an amazing experience that convinced me that I might have a future in social work.

A few years later my husband passed away suddenly and I left my job in retail to go back to school to get a diploma in social services. My successful career in the nonprofit sector for and as a nonprofit Consultant is a direct result of the experience and inspiration I took from those early days at Women's Place." –Gay Douglas



Gay Douglas



14

(left) Santa pays a visit to Gillian's Place
(right) Donations from the Adopt-a-Family program are ready for sharing

A HOLIDAY TO REMEMBER

Staff running out to the store in the middle of the night to purchase a gift for a child's birthday, carving turkey or ham at home to bring in for a holiday meal, strangers dressing up as Santa. We discovered – by necessity – many ways to honour special milestones at Gillian's Place, and to facilitate the building of strong bonds between mother and child. With this realization was born the Gillian's Place Holiday Adopt-a-Family Program. Through this program, our community of supporters are able to share their blessings with families who are struggling to rebuild their lives by helping mothers create magical, memorable and, most of all, happy holiday memories.

15 BUILDING A FUTURE

As women were beginning to move out of our home, there was a moment when we realized that they would need support beyond the first weeks or months of leaving an abusive partner. And so, Gillian Dooley, our former Executive Director, founded **Design for a New Tomorrow**. This organization was founded on the principles of providing support to abused women in their journey towards healthy and violence-free lives beyond the initial phase of crisis. Design for a New Tomorrow continues to be a valuable partner of Gillian's Place in supporting women who have experienced abuse. We are thankful for this organization in our community.



dfnt.ca is an online resource for those who need support after leaving an abusive partner



16

THE MONTREAL MASSACRE

We sat in shock, tears in our eyes, as we huddled around our small television and watched the CBC news report on the evening of December 6th 1989. A lone man walked into an engineering class at L'École Polytechnique de Montréal. He separated the men from the women and told the men to leave. After the male students complied, the man declared his hatred of feminists and began to shoot the women with a semi-automatic rifle. While police forces stood outside, he went on a rampage, shooting and stabbing the women at the school, and then shooting himself. He left behind a note that included a list of prominent Canadian feminists whom he planned to kill. It was clear that these engineering students symbolized the progress of women's equality.

THE 14 WOMEN WHO WERE KILLED AS FEMINISTS:

Geneviève Bergeron
Hélène Colgan
Nathalie Croteau
Barbara Daigneault
Anne-Marie Edward
Maud Haviernick
Barbara Klucznik Widajewicz

Maryse Laganière
Maryse Leclair
Anne-Marie Lemay
Sonia Pelletier
Michèle Richard
Annie St-Arneault
Annie Turcotte

This one man's actions could have stunted women's demands for increased equality through social change. However, women organized in defiance of his attack. Women rose up to demonstrate in towns and cities across the country and right here at home in Niagara. They connected these acts of violence to the everyday sexism which women are subjected to, and dedicated themselves to feminist organizing, so that they could rise above the violent tragedy and make freedom for women a reality of the present and the future.



17

BROKEN BARRIERS

It became apparent that there was a need in our community for victims to have free, specialized, safe and easily accessible legal advice. In the summer of 1999, with a one year grant from the Government of Ontario, Gillian's Place advertised for a Social Service Worker to provide legal information and emotional support to women throughout the very intimidating legal process. Although Gillian's Place (Women's Place at the time) was not advertising for a lawyer, Marion Wright, a young and talented new lawyer, applied for the position. At her interview, Marion explained why she felt Gillian's Place should have a lawyer to provide legal advice in the areas of family law and criminal law in order to better service victims of domestic violence. That summer, Gillian's Place became the first shelter in Ontario (and possibly all of Canada) to have a lawyer on-staff. Since that moment, our Legal Services Program has seen 500 to 600 clients per year, and since its inception, we have

been able to strengthen our relationships with Niagara's justice-based community partners including the Niagara Regional Police, the Crown Attorney's Office, Victim-Witness Assistance Program and Probation.

"Speaking to a lawyer that specializes and cares about my situation is extremely helpful and emotionally comforting"

- Former Client



When we started to see women, who were here with us as children, coming back as adults with children of their own, we realized the importance of reaching the younger generation to break the cycle of violence. We began visiting schools to teach young men and women about healthy relationships so that they may grow up understanding respect and boundaries in intimate relationships. Our goal at Gillian's Place is to be proactive in ending violence against women and girls.

As difficult as it is for a woman to leave an abusive relationship, it can be even more difficult after they leave. Women come to the shelter full of questions about what is next for them. Where will they live? Their partner is refusing access to their belongings – how would they furnish their new home? We knew we needed someone to guide them through the arduous process of taking their next steps. With this in mind we launched our Transitional Housing and Support Program (THSP).

More than 200 women each year successfully take the next steps with the help of our THSP worker.



Though some of our clients' needs were taken care of by community donations, many women were unable to attain their goals due to lack of financial resources, and these women were falling through the cracks. Many of these women were tempted to return to their abusers because they could not afford housing, struggled with self-esteem, had difficulty securing employment or couldn't afford the ongoing cost of therapy. It was for these women that the **Stepping Stones Fund** was established with the generous support of the Fowler Foundation. This distinctive fund provides relief to women and their children as they set up their new homes and become more self-sufficient in their lives. These funds have helped women with rent, moving expenses, children's school costs, and the purchase of used appliances and furniture. Women have also received assistance with utilities, daily living expenses, legal fees, language interpreters, and medical expenses.

*"I never felt safe with my father around, it was more the opposite never knowing what might happen. He was quite literally the monster trying to break into the window in the dark of the night, throwing things, yelling, creating fear when a daddy should be bringing comfort. **Arriving at Women's Place (which I lovingly called Mom's Place) tattered and getting up to our room was the most comfortable I had felt in my 6 little years of existence.** I remember looking out that window from up high in the dark of the night. I asked if bad guys could get through and very lovingly the lady that worked there told me I was safe. I will forever be grateful for my time at Women's Place (Gillian's now) and look back on it with warm feelings as it was my first safe home, my first place of finding trust and the first building block for our little family of 3 to create a new world."* - Kelly Serniak, Former Client

Today, Kelly, her Mom and brother are thriving, and Kelly chooses to give back to Gillian's Place by donating her time and talent as a photographer.



22 MAN ENOUGH?

In 2006, we asked the men in Niagara to strap on high heel shoes and to literally Walk a Mile in **HER** Shoes®. It was no easy task, but that first year, we had about 50 men walking, and they raised almost \$10,000 for Women's Place. First and foremost, this event was about raising funds for our shelter and programs, but it also got men involved in talking about something that's really difficult to talk about: violence toward women and girls. It's critical to open up communication about domestic violence. When hidden away, it's almost impossible to stop. Walk a Mile in Her Shoes® provides several opportunities to get people talking and keep the conversation going throughout the year. For preventive education, it helps men better understand and appreciate women's experiences, thus changing perspectives, helping improve gender relationships and decreasing the potential for violence. For healing, it informs the community that services are available for recovery.

**Now in its 12th year,
Walk a Mile in Her Shoes
has raised over \$600,000.**



2006



2016

23 MOVING FORWARD

"In 2004, my staff and I were looking for a project that we could become involved in that would give back to the community in a meaningful way. As a collision repair facility what could be more fitting than giving a needy family a fully restored vehicle for their use! We contacted our suppliers for some assistance and their response was amazing to say the least. My staff donated their time to restore the vehicle to like new conditions and hundreds of people contributed gifts, auto maintenance vouchers and cash to the project. We then organized a committee of volunteers to assist with the selection of the recipient of this generosity. We selected Gillian's Place (formerly Women's Place) as the organization whose clients best represented the people we wanted to help. Since then, the "Moving Forward" project has been getting bigger and better every year. We can now not only give one deserving family the gift of a vehicle, but assist Gillian's Place clients with transportation assistance. Things that so many of us take for granted; cab fare, bus tickets, auto repairs and any other transportation need can now be offered to those women who require them. We may have started the ball rolling but it is the supporting businesses and people that keep it "Moving Forward." - Julio Bruno, Merritt Collision



24

IT'S TIME TO MOVE... AGAIN

In the early 2000s we were feeling the constraints of our Centre Street facility more than ever. The shelter was often at capacity, our clients needed more privacy than what we could offer and we were working with just one counselling room. In 2004 we acquired the former Victoria School on Gibson Street, and in 2007 we were able to call it home. Our new building offered 34 beds in 18 private bedrooms, some with their own bathroom, quiet rooms, a child and youth room and 4 counselling rooms. Our Gibson Place facility gave us room to grow, and grow we have.



25

WOMEN'S PLACE BECOMES GILLIAN'S PLACE

For more than two decades, Gillian Dooley was a strong voice speaking out against domestic violence in the Niagara Region. The ripple effect of her work was not only felt locally, but nationally, establishing her as a pioneer in the crusade to end the cycle of violence against women. Under Gillian's leadership, Women's Place St. Catharines & North Niagara was one of the first women's shelters in Ontario and the first in the Niagara Region to offer emergency shelter for abused women and their children. Gillian Dooley helped countless women reinvent their lives. She laid the foundation for future generations to stand up against violence towards women and children. In 2007, just as we were moving into our Gibson Place shelter, Gillian Dooley retired, and Women's Place became "Gillian's Place", in her honour. Her commitment, innovation and pursuit of justice has left a legacy that will echo for years to come. Quite simply, Gillian Dooley made this community a safer place for abused women and their children.

26

ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL

Women with disabilities are two to three times more likely to experience violence, and 60% of those living with a physical or cognitive impairment are being abused. Moving into our current home meant that all women were able to easily enter and access all areas of our shelter. We are constantly making updates to create even more ease for women with disabilities, such as the installation of accessible doors throughout the entire shelter in 2013, and the renovation of our kitchen and reception area in 2014.



Renovated reception area

27

RECOGNIZING AND RESPONDING TO RISK

intimate partner homicides are often predictable and preventable. There are several factors that are recognized as key indicators that a woman may be murdered by her abuser. In the early 2000s Niagara's first High Risk Review committee was put together to monitor high risk cases in order to develop tailored plans to enhance victim safety. This came on the heels of a specialized Domestic Violence Court, which was formed to improve the prosecution of domestic violence cases, intervene early, and hold offenders accountable for their abusive behavior. The High Risk Review Committee, and the Domestic Violence Court provided us increased support and safety for victims.

28

THE ECONOMIC CRISIS OF '08

2008 was a tumultuous time for everyone. Markets crashing, houses being lost, prices skyrocketing, and abused women were reaching out to Gillian's Place in record numbers. This was the year that the number of women requiring service on an outreach basis more than doubled. We responded to this by adding a full time Outreach Counsellor to help women deal with the abuse they were suffering, while choosing to remain in their homes, because of the uncertainty of our job market and economy. This service helped women to remain safer in their homes, and gave them much needed support until they were ready to leave their partners.

29

A SPECIALIZED RESPONSE

In 2008, The Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) formed a specialized Domestic Violence Unit as a response to NRPS statistics which indicated that the number of calls increased by an alarming 56% from 2006 to 2008. A total of 6,532 domestic violence calls were responded to by NRPS that year. The Domestic Violence Unit consists of 12 specially trained detectives and one supervisor who recognize and understand the complex nature of domestic violence investigations. This moment changed the course of many cases of domestic violence in Niagara.

30

STRENGTHENED COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

In 2009 our long standing relationship with Niagara's Family and Children's Services (FACS) grew stronger with the implementation of our Domestic Violence Consultant Program. Two Gillian's Place counsellors work out of the FACS offices to intervene in situations where domestic violence is suspected. One of the critical pieces in our partnership is to assess risk and provide enhanced safety to women and children, because the best way to ensure safety of a child is to ensure safety of the mother. The Domestic Violence Consultants also build capacity for the FACS employees by delivering training to new FACS employees to ensure that case workers can spot red flags for abuse in family situations and by being available for one-on-one consultations and support to workers as they require.

31

THE NIAGARA REGION DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORT CARD

In 2008, the Niagara Regional Police reported that females were consistently the victims of domestic violence. Shelters in the region, including Gillian's Place responded to 4,476 crisis calls, and housed 522 women and 144 children and had to refer 183 cases to other shelter services due to lack of space. That year, the *Niagara Region Domestic Violence Report Card 2008/09*, sponsored by the Coalition to End Violence against Women (CEVAW), was developed with recommendations for the legal system and all social agencies to help end domestic violence. Recommendations included the re-establishment of a courthouse in Niagara Falls; setting up a Bail Safety Program; appropriate and secure government funding; and mandatory specialized domestic violence training for individuals working in the legal system (especially the Domestic Violence Court System). They addressed the need for new eligibility requirements for Legal Aid, the need for more transitional and permanent housing for victims, transportation from rural areas and efforts to improve court backlog. Sadly, many of the same issues remain today, but this was the start of developing a better response for abused women in Niagara.



32

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AT WORK – LESSONS OF THE LORI DUPONT TRAGEDY

On Nov. 12, 2005, 36 year-old nurse Lori Dupont was murdered by her former fiancé, anesthesiologist Dr. Marc Daniel. The tragedy occurred at the Hôtel-Dieu Grace Hospital in Windsor, Ontario, where both of them worked. The hospital was sued for not doing enough to prevent the attack even though it was aware of Dr. Daniel's mental health issues and threats he had made against Nurse Dupont. Public outrage over the Dupont murder spurred Ontario to adopt Bill 168—the "Lori Dupont Bill"—which, effective June 15, 2010, requires employers to protect employees from workplace violence, including domestic violence.



33

THE ENTIRE PROVINCE WORKS TOGETHER TO RAISE AWARENESS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In 2013, shelters across the province worked together to launch the Wrapped in Courage Campaign, engaging their communities to become more aware of the often overlooked issue of woman abuse in Ontario. The purple scarf is a symbol of the courage it takes a woman to leave her abuser. However, the courage of the woman is not enough. It takes the strength of an entire community to end violence against women. This campaign continues today and has expanded to include several styles of scarves, and now purple ties! During the month of November (Woman Abuse Prevention Month), everyone across the province is invited to participate in showing abused women that they have our support by wearing a purple scarf.



34

THE INQUEST INTO MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN



Just how many missing or murdered Indigenous women are there in Canada? No one can say for certain. The release of an RCMP report in 2014 says 1,181, but that report doesn't necessarily provide a complete picture. Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett says "it's bigger than 1,200; way, way bigger than 1,200." After repeatedly being denied by the Harper Government, the families of these women finally got their moment on December 8, 2015 when the federal government announced the launch of a formal inquiry into the overwhelming number of missing and murdered indigenous women. The health and healing of our Indigenous peoples is the healing strength of our nation, and Gillian's Place stands in support of the Indigenous women of our Canadian communities.

35

CHANGE TAKES TIME - SHIRLEY MAE ROTHERY REMEMBERS GILLIAN'S PLACE IN HER WILL

Many men and women have chosen to make ending violence against women part of their life stories over the past 40 years. By leaving a gift in their will to Gillian's Place, these people have been able to ensure that Gillian's Place can continue its work to end the cycle of abuse well into the future. Our most recent legacy gift has allowed us to renovate two spaces in our shelter into wellness rooms for our residents and staff. By choosing to leave a gift in her will, Shirley Mae Rothery has provided critical financial support to Gillian's Place that will benefit future generations.



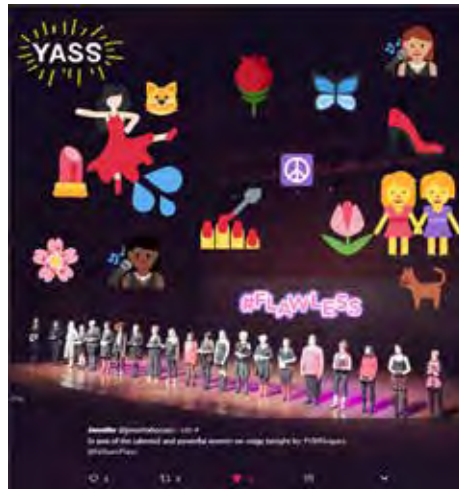
above:
Rothery Quiet Room

left:
Rothery Wellness Room

36

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

In February 2017 we made a triumphant return to the staging of the Tony Award winning Vagina Monologues. Our production starred 21 local women who didn't let a little thing like stage experience get in the way of rocking the sold-out Partridge Hall at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre. We first held a production of the Vagina Monologues in 2003, when we hosted one of the most successful fundraisers across Canada. The critically acclaimed show gets updated every year to reflect the current political and social economy. The strong feminist message, diverse performers and atmosphere of laughter and unity make it a show not to be missed!



A tweet about the Vagina Monologues:

"In awe of the talented and powerful women on stage tonight for #VMNiagara @GilliansPlace" - @jenniferbonato

38

GILLIAN'S PLACE TAKES ON A FOUR-LEGGED FRIEND

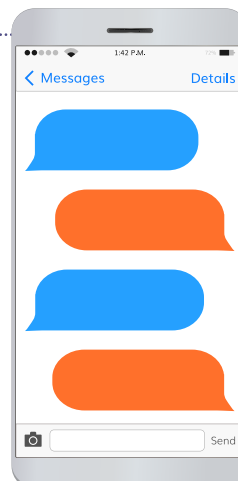
Recently we welcomed sweet little Maci to our shelter! Animals are able to form a special bond with humans, and can provide security and emotional support to people during difficult times. Dogs have been shown to reduce stress, anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. She is cute, she is cuddly, and she offers real comfort to our residents who are separated from their own pets while staying at the shelter.



37

A NEW GENERATION, A NEW WAY TO HELP

The world is changing, and Gillian's Place is keeping up. Though digital technology has added an additional layer to the type of abuse women are experiencing, technology such as our new text support line serves women in crisis, providing them access to free, 24/7 emotional support and information they need via the medium they already use and trust: text messaging.



39

LIVES LOST AT HOME: WE REMEMBER

It is with heavy hearts that we remember the local women who have lost their lives to domestic assault. Each of the more than 20 women has left their mark in the hearts of our staff, and we recognize the bright lights that have been extinguished far too soon because of domestic violence. These women are never far from our thoughts. We want to honour their strength, bravery and resiliency. Since 2014, there have been at least seven women and children whose lives were lost because of domestic violence.

WE REMEMBER:

Judith Fraser (73)

Jessica Scanlon (29)

Ashley Simpson
(32, missing, suspected homicide)

Annette Hayes (53)

Johni-Mae Haskell (36)

Angela McAdorey (39)

Nathan Dumas (7)

40

YOU

Reading this. Right now.

This is a moment that defines us because we look ahead with you, our caring supporters, to the future of Gillian's Place.

None of these moments would be possible without you.

And as we have done every day since 1977, with the women who share our home, our time and our hearts, we will define our future together.

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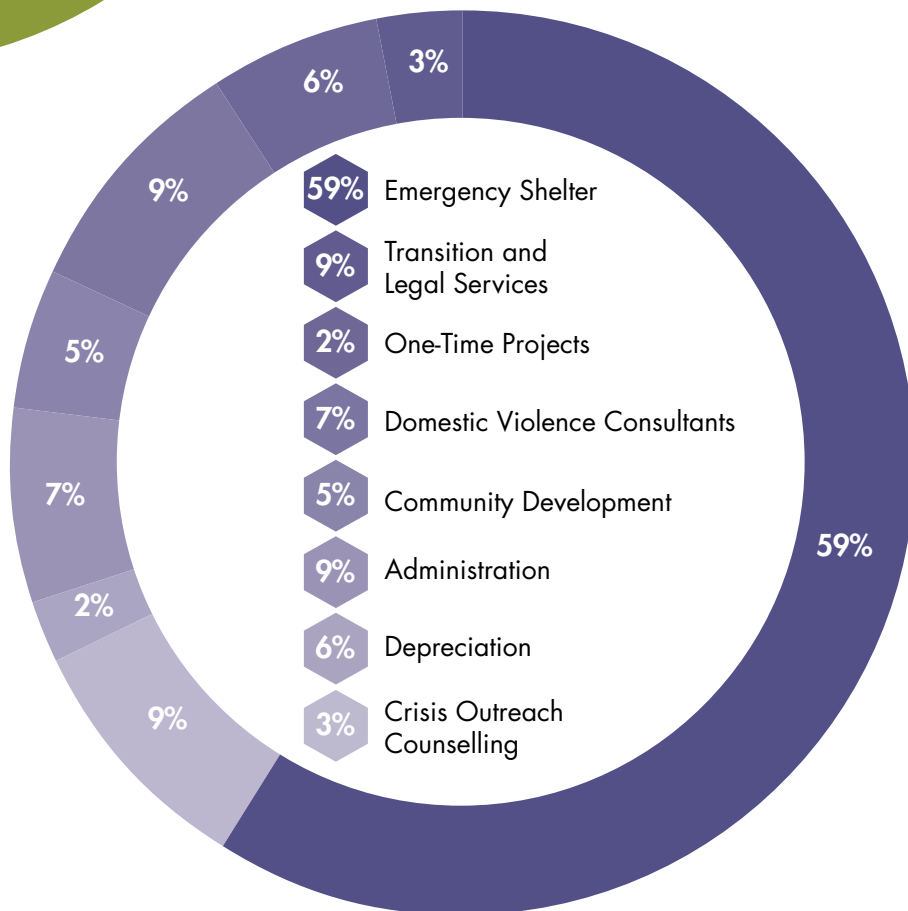
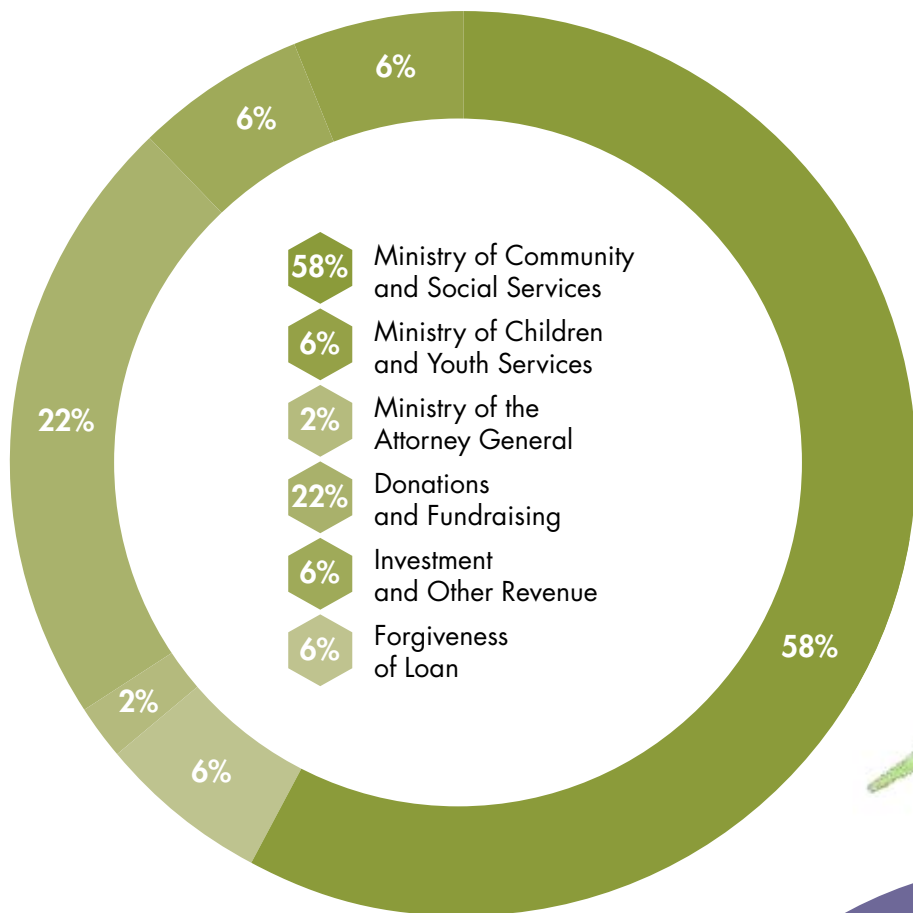
Marion Wright

Manager of Legal Services

Gillian's Place Statement of Revenue and Expenses

For the year ending March 31, 2017

	2017	2016
REVENUE		
Ministry of Community and Social Services	\$1,344,729	\$1,319,016
Donations and Fundraising	502,344	378,637
Ministry of Children and Youth Services	126,009	126,009
Ministry of the Attorney General	32,500	32,500
Investment and Other Income	149,677	69,134
Forgiveness of Loan	138,162	138,163
	2,293,421	2,063,459
EXPENSES		
Crisis Outreach Counselling	73,128	67,591
Emergency Shelter	1,260,335	1,227,578
Transition and Legal Services	159,356	152,165
One-Time Projects	31,291	17,670
Domestic Violence Consultants	144,949	144,877
Family Court Support	32,556	33,283
Community Development	110,896	138,405
Transition/Restructure Costs	7,062	172,389
Administration	198,979	180,899
Depreciation	137,231	131,767
	2,155,783	2,266,624
Surplus (Deficit)	\$137,638	\$(203,165)



A copy of the audited financial statements are available upon request

For all the women who've gone before,
For all the women to come,
For all the women who got away,
For all of those who stay,
For all the women who fight the fight,
And for those who can no more,
For all the women who have survived,
For those who still endure,
For all of these and many more
who courageously live on.
Press on. Fight back. There is help,
hope and support –

You are not alone.

- Former Resident of Women's Place



GILLIAN'S PLACE
empowering abused women of niagara

24-hr Support Line: 905.684.8331

Business Line: 905.684.4000

PO Box 1387 | St. Catharines, Ontario | L2R 7J8

gilliansplace.com

