

AWHL Byline

Winter 2004



A Message from the Helpline

Wyann Ruso of Scarborough thought she did everything that an abused woman was supposed to do. On November 3, 2004, the mother of three went to 42 Division to hand over her husband's shotgun and to tell police that her husband had threatened to kill her. After four hours of waiting and a series of phone calls to the Police, Ms. Ruso went home to take care of her disabled daughter, assuming that the Police would arrest her husband. Shortly after, officers responding to a 911 call found Ms. Ruso lying in a pool of blood suffering from extensive injuries, as a result of an axe attack by her husband, Giuseppe Ruso.

The above are two examples amongst many tragedies pointing to our failure to protect women from spousal violence despite the fact that many of these women have done all that was asked of them when confronted with family violence. A study on "intimate femicide" from 1974 to 1994 recently presented by the *London Abused Women's Centre* revealed that of the 1,206 women killed in that time, over 58% were killed by their spouses. This study is supported by another report, *Assisting Violence Against Women: A Statistical Profile*, released in late 2003 by the Federal Government which concluded that violence against women continues to be a significant and persistent social and economic problem despite the prevailing public consensus that family violence is a crime and a problem.

Dealing with the problem of spousal violence is far more challenging than the identification. Often, prevailing public attitudes do not translate into much-needed laws, nor does it affect the inner workings of our criminal justice system.

While many experts agree that the only way to ultimately end gender-based violence is through a major cultural shift from a predominantly "patriarchal" society to one where women have social political and economic equality, we believe that abused women can also achieve significant relief through meaningful reforms of the current criminal justice system by addressing number of serious and longstanding problems.

Special points of interest

- We Remember
- Community Partner's Spotlight
- Celebrate the Women in Your Life!

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Marlene Brookes of Ajax also thought that she has followed all the steps required to protect her and her family from Sugston Brookes, her husband of 18 years. On August 25, 2004 she was hunted down and shot at on her way to work. Ms. Brookes left the family home several months before to go into hiding and had informed the Police of her husband's past violence against her and her children. Mr. Brookes was not a stranger to the Police, having been charged with and pleaded guilty to various counts of assault and threats. For violent acts such as pushing his wife down the stairs, holding a knife to her throat, punching her and choking her, hitting and threatening his daughter, and carrying gasoline into the house and threatening to burn it down; Mr. Brookes received a 79-day jail time and was prohibited from owning firearms for 10 years.

Continued...

A Message from the Helpline [continued]

These problems are:

- The criminal justice system fails to recognize the severity and seriousness of family violence. Mr. Brookes' jail time and the response time to Ms. Ruso's complaint are evidence of this failure.
- We do not have tough laws that require the court to declare certain violent spouses as dangerous offenders. A repeated offender such as Mr. Brookes should have been declared a dangerous spousal offender and be treated as such.
- We do not adequately protect the safety of abused women even confronted with overwhelming evidence of clear and present danger. Ms. Brookes should not have to go into hiding. Ms. Ruso should have received Police escort when she was returning home and her partner should have been arrested immediately.
- We have not consistently and vigorously demonstrated our commitment to prosecuting spousal offenders affording the law enforcement agencies the necessary resources to adequately investigate cases involving woman abuse and successfully prosecute the offenders. This failure is demonstrated by a 2004 report, Family Violence in Canada, released by Statistics Canada.

Using police and court records from 1997 to 2002, the report found that prison sentences were ordered in 19% of cases of spousal abuse convictions compared to in 29% of cases where offenders were convicted of other violent crimes.

- We do not have a well-coordinated strategy amongst players within the criminal justice system, family law and the community services to promote a consistent message that women's safety is the priority and there is zero tolerance for abusers of women and children.

For those of us who devote ourselves to the equality of women, violence against women is a fundamental breach of our human rights. The practice by the criminal justice system of minimizing the seriousness of woman abuse is a fundamental breach of our legal rights. The fight for equality of women is a long and difficult journey and reforms to the criminal justice system are the first steps toward the goal of equality and justice for all.

In Solidarity,

Huong Pham
Executive Director

Remembering Our Sister—Ila Rutledge

When we think of colleagues and friends who are no longer with us, we miss Ila Rutledge who died on July 29th, 2004. Ila was with the Assaulted Women's Helpline from its inception in 1985 until 2000 as a counsellor, trainer and supervisor. Her gentle, caring, compassionate voice supported both callers and colleagues. Every caller received her undivided attention, her care and her wise counsel. As a colleague, she gave unwavering support, patience and helpful feedback. As well as her large family of husband, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and siblings, she also leaves a family of friends, volunteers, colleagues and many anonymous callers she respected and cherished.

When we remember Ila, we picture an ageless face framed by wavy hair, only barely touched by gray, cradling the phone, chair tilted back, her concentra-

tion total. Callers, friends, family members, too numerous for the rest of us to count or keep track of although she remembered all their Birthdays and Anniversaries, everyone who had contact with her felt valued and special. She seemed to possess an inner core of strength and calm as well as a lively sense of humour that enabled her to work longer hours as well as many more years than the rest of us doing crisis work. She worked until her final illness left her bedridden and unable to. We miss her terribly and count ourselves lucky to have known and worked with her and called her our friend.

Love and Respect,
Past and present Board Members, Volunteers, Students and Staff at the Assaulted Women's Helpline

We Remember...

Women and Children Murdered since November 2003

Mary Yeates, 57. Port Perry. Mary was found dead in her home by her elderly mother. Her husband was also found dead at the scene. Police referred to the deaths as possible murder-suicide. (December 2003).

Natalie Bobeika, 46. Mother of one child. Natalie was stabbed to death in front of her 13-year-old son, who called the police. She had been divorced from her husband for two years and was studying accounting in hopes of getting a job to support herself and her son. She had no relatives in Canada after coming from Russia; her son was placed in the care of friends. Her estranged husband, Iouri Bobeika, was charged with second-degree murder. (December 2003)

Zofia Bonder, 45. Mississauga. Mother of three children. Zofia was stabbed to death as her children slept. Her daughter found her bleeding to death and called 911. Her husband, Maciej Bonder, was found in the home with minor self-inflicted wounds and charged. Police reported that there had been a history of problems in the relationship and police had been called to the home during the previous year. (December 2003)

Maureen Nicholson, 39. Kingston. Mother of one. Maureen was found shot to death by her 12-year-old daughter, who called 911. Her husband, Ian Nicholson, a police officer, was also found dead of a gunshot in what police described as a murder-suicide. Police believed the gun was the constable's service handgun, which should have been locked down at the police station while the officer was not on duty. (December 2003)

Christina Sukhdeo, 19. Christina was found dead of multiple stab wounds in a field after police officers had arrested a man described as her former boyfriend. She had been reported missing by her family five days earlier. Tarick Persaud was charged with first-degree murder. (December 2003)

Rebecca Haney, 2. Woodstock. Rebecca's body was found in the basement of her home after her mother, Misty Haney, reported her missing from her bed on Christmas Eve. Misty's partner, Melissa Babineau has been charged with second-degree murder. (December 2003)

Adele Matinet, 22. Atikokan. Adele died in her home from internal injuries caused by blunt force trauma. She had been upgrading her skills and had plans to continue her education. Dennis Trout was charged with second-degree murder in her death. (February 2004)

Jo-Ann Robertson, Bracebridge. The bodies of Jo-Ann and her husband, Murray, were found inside their home. Jo-Ann had been shot in the back. Her husband then turned the gun on himself. Four years ago, a son died of natural causes and police

reported that Mr. Robinson had been depressed ever since. (April 2004)

Angelika Pauls, 51. Grimsby. Angelika fell from a 15-metre cliff at a conservation area November 23, 2003. The death was originally ruled accidental after one autopsy, but a second autopsy was ordered after police received new information and her common-law husband was later arrested. Milorad (Mike) Polimac was charged with first-degree murder. (April 2004)

Irene Peteigney, 30. Barrie. Mother of two. Irene died in hospital of injuries received earlier in her home. Her children were present at the home when police arrived. Neighbours reported ongoing abuse and concern for the children, as well as reports to police. "He was a miserable guy and everybody knew he had a temper," said one. Michael Peteigney was charged with second-degree murder. (April 2004)

Yhonette Ying, 25. Toronto. Mother of one child. Yhonette was shot to death with a homemade weapon outside her home. Her common-law partner, Jason Lopic, was charged with second-degree murder. (May 2004)

Hemattie Roopdial, 25. Etobicoke. Mother of two children. Hemattie's body was found in a closet of her home several days after she and her estranged husband went missing. Relatives and her children were living in the home at the time and a search had been conducted earlier by police. Police reported that there had been a history of "domestic disturbances" in the relationship and that the couple were about to divorce. Police are searching for Dillraj Roopdial as a suspect in the murder. (May 2004)

Sonia Abbas, 30. Ottawa. Sonia was strangled to death by her ex-husband, Michael Sterling, who then slit his own throat. (May 2004)

Brenda MacDonald, 52. Nepean. Mother of two children. Brenda was shot to death by her husband, Bruce MacDonald, who then turned the gun on himself. Her two children were asleep at the time and her 12-year-old son found her body and the body of his father the next morning when he awoke. One neighbour described the murderer as "a wonderfully bright and cheerful guy" and the couple as "very low-key people". Another described them as "a nice little family". (June 2004)

Continued...

We Remember... [continued]

Henny Ann McAlpine, 48. Toronto. Henny Ann was found stabbed to death on the lawn of her apartment building and was pronounced dead at hospital. Her husband was found dead 30 minutes later after witnesses said he “hurled himself” into traffic and was struck by a car. Police determined that the deaths were a murder-suicide. Neighbours described the couple as “incredibly loving” and “nice people” but also said they didn’t talk to their neighbours and were “together all the time”. (July 2004)

Janice Cudjoe, 48. Oshawa. Mother of two children. Janice was stabbed to death inside her house. A friend who was with her to help her pack and leave her partner was also assaulted and injured, but survived. Randy Cudjoe, 47, was charged with second-degree murder. (July 2004)

Fernanda Santo Conceicao, 51. Toronto. Mother of three adult children. Fernanda was bludgeoned to death with a hammer in her home. Her husband, Manuel Dos Santos, 57, was charged with second-degree murder. Neighbours described Fernanda as a “happy woman” and her partner as a “nice guy”. (August 2004)

Rosaura Tolentino Ramos, 26. North York. Rosaura’s body was found in a penthouse highrise apartment after she was reported missing. Her husband, Juan Antonio Avalos, was being sought by police for questioning in the murder. (September 2004)

Susan Kilby, 39. St. Catharines. Mother of two children. Susan was found in the home of her estranged husband with her skull smashed in by blunt force trauma. She had been separated from her ex-husband for over a year and had gone to the house to pick up her children from an access visit. A phone call was placed to 911 and the dispatcher listened to sounds of an argument while sending police. By the time police arrived, however, Susan was dead. The children were nearby when the murder occurred but police were not sure if they were witnesses to the murder. Patrick Kilby was charged with first-degree murder. Only a few weeks before the murder, community protests arose over a T-shirt being sold locally with the words “She was asking for it” accompanied by a picture of a hammer. Supporters of the T-shirt characterized it as a “joke” and one scoffed at the protests telling media that no one would really smash someone’s head with a hammer. (October 2004)

Diana Keeney, 34. Ottawa. Diana was choked and strangled to death in her apartment. She was living with a developmental disability and was a very trusting person, according to her brother. Christopher Baldwin, who had been in a relationship with Diana for a brief period, was charged with second-degree murder. (October 2004)

Valerie Gutteridge, 50. Huntsville. Valerie was found dead at her home after a 911 call. A post mortem was scheduled to determine the cause of death. Her partner, Lloyd Alan Ingraham, was arrested at the scene and charged with first-degree murder. (November 2004)

Cimarron Doncaster, 24. Toronto. Mother of three children. Cimarron was slashed to death in her home. Her new partner, Dean Plante, 30, then hung himself. Cimarron’s 7-year-old son woke to find his mother dead, her body hanging, and guided his younger siblings, 4 and 3, to a neighbour’s house to get help. (November 2004)

Aysegul Candir, 47. Old Bolton. Aysegul died after she was shot in the head outside of Bramalea Secondary School. Aysegul reportedly expressed concern that her estranged husband had been monitoring the campus where she taught English as a Second Language (ESL) to find out when she came and went. The shooting happened around 11:30 am Friday and sent students hiding under their desks as school officials declared the campus was in lockdown and officers sealed off the area for hours. Her estranged husband, 62 year old Erhun Candir, charged with first-degree murder. (December 2004)

Dr. Dorothy Halton, 40. Ottawa. Dorothy’s body was discovered inside her townhouse when the police entered her home after two of her friends told them that they were worried something was wrong. Burns Coutts had been in a relationship with Dorothy since last Christmas, but investigators said they weren’t at the time of her death. Friends said Dorothy struggled to end the relationship, one in which she may have been physically abused. An autopsy revealed that the cause of death was compression of the neck by strangulation. Burns Coutts, a 36 year old senior policy advisor with the Climate Change Bureau was charged with first-degree murder. (December 2004)

Source
OAITH

“The only cure for grief is action.”

George Henry Lewes

Community Partner's Spotlight

In sitting down to write this piece I reflected back to January of 2004 at the Metrac AGM where I was asked to speak on a panel about what could be a new deal for women and children. We had just been through two elections at the Province and in the City of Toronto with a much anticipated upcoming Federal Election. I looked at what I had said back then when we were all still full of hope around the promise of change in the Province of Ontario. It was good to look at this, reflect, and note that there actually have been some changes but also to examine what has fundamentally not changed. What has not changed is significant and reaffirms to me that in 2004 we still have a long way to go in what should be our goal of eradicating violence against women.

Just this week I was listening to CBC Radio and heard an interview about the National Day of Commemoration and Action on Violence Against Women specifically around the 15 day action campaign leading up to Dec.6th. The interviewer asked "why do you think that so little has changed?" The interviewee did not answer this question and continued to discuss the campaign demands and critique the Federal government. The interviewer asked the same question again but it was not answered and then the interview concluded. It occurred to me that while we can all easily identify what needs to be done, the challenge remains to explain why there has been so little substantive change.

I found myself thinking about how I would answer this question because, from my perspective, this is really an important question to answer after all these years. I thought that what I would have first is that, "to answer that question, I need to first ask myself who continues to be privileged and to benefit from violence against women."

I would then have to conclude that, the people who are invested in keeping things the same are: men, people who are white, people with money, people who are able bodied, people who are straight, essentially people who represent dominant groups. I would say that these dominant groups construct, direct the public agenda, determine resources, shape, control and manage all institutions and they would not benefit from real changes that would end violence against women. The re-shaping and re-organizing of all systems that perpetuate and maintain racism, sexism, classism, ableism, ageism, heterosexism would mean a direct loss of power and therefore the use of violence as a tool to maintain inequality is both effective and desired.

Before I address some of the Provincial government issues I think that it is necessary to look first at ourselves, the community sector and in particular the women's community. It is here that we must examine why after all these years so little has in fact changed, not only in terms of public policy and institutions, but also within our own movement and organizing.

We continue to fail to address issues of racism and oppression adequately. This is evidenced in service delivery, who is hired, what issues we choose to resource and fight and with what groups/issues we ally. Although we can all mostly comfortably articulate and agree on patriarchy as an oppressive system; publicly we still struggle with the complexity and intersectionality of oppression that is entrenched in our community and institutions. We have not yet made the systemic changes within our own organizations and in how we organize.

A critique of what has changed and what is needed needs to begin with us- the personal to political, local to global. We need to be able to be honest and accountable and critical of the women's anti-violence movement if we are to contribute to larger systemic change. This means addressing the willful drift from lobby & advocacy to solely service delivery, the lack of an integrated feminist AR/AO analysis in all our work. It means re-politicizing our movement towards real change.

The fight for women's equality rights, economic, social and political is the work of ending violence against women. This requires changes in public policy, a social commitment to use resources and to have all levels of government work together. This does require a coordination of advocacy efforts across all sectors.

I am going to briefly highlight some of the changes at the Provincial government but clearly with the understanding that the local and Federal government are integral players to achieve long term systemic change. National leadership and standards and the reform of the Immigration system are just two areas where the Federal government needs to step up. There are far too many examples of positive changes made by one level of government which we then see either diminished or vanish as either the government of the day changes and/or other levels of government actively resist and block long term change.

Community Partner's Spotlight [continued]

So on the positive side first....

- There is now an acknowledgement publicly that violence is a gender based issue and crime.
- The government has stated violence against women is a priority and an important public issue.
- They have indeed allocated some resources previously taken out of VAW sector and there has been a small 3% increase for Shelters and an expansion of the Transition Housing Worker Program.
- The Premier has appointed leadership on issue in the form of MPP Laurel Broten.
- They have established an Interministerial committee.
- They have in fact consulted during their first year widely across the Province with a variety of stakeholder groups. There are consultations on housing and the Social Housing Act, The Tenant Protection Act and the Ontario Works Legislation.
- There is a working committee between Feds, province and City with respect to immigration.
- They have removed the OW. lifetime ban and there has been a minute increase in SA. and ODSP. Rates.
- There was a small increase in the minimum wage
- There has been some new funding for persons with developmental disabilities and the government has committed their support to move forward on the Ontarions with Disabilities Act.
- There has been some new funding for the Aboriginal Health and Wellness Strategy.
- They have scheduled a provincial conference on the issue of violence against women and the planning involves some community stakeholders.
- There has been a review of Police Public Complaints System.

These I acknowledge are positive steps and would not have happened under former government.....

The question though really is the degree to which the approach is fundamentally different from the previous government, because many of the same issues that we faced remain and are barriers to change.

For example, the pre-occupation with taxes evidenced by pre-election commitment to Taxpayer Federation around no new taxes thereby limiting public resources. Additionally, while the Tories just

simply did not care about women's issues and social programs, this government asks us to be patient and understand the enormity of the issues they are facing. When they are questioned or confronted on what they have not done their response is anger and irritation and have stated that the community should acknowledge and be grateful for what they have done. This is what I call the conservative continuum.

So on the critical side.....

- What we have is now in the Province of Ontario is a government that has not committed and shown their comprehensive plan for long term systemic change around the issue of violence against women. After one year they are still not willing to have women's advocates as a partner at the table on the interministerial committee
- To date what has been done falls well short of political will, resource allocation and commitment to action.
- The results of stakeholder consultation remain behind closed doors and there is little transparency and accountability for process and decisions made.
- They continue to use of term domestic violence instead of woman abuse.
- They lack a clear AR/AO analysis in examining differential impacts and systems changes required.
- The bureaucracy has not shifted despite a change in the political climate.
- They see all stakeholders as the same and do not acknowledge the expertise of women directly impacted and VAW advocates.
- There is still no rent control and none of the 20,000 new units of housing that had been promised.
- There has been a lack of action on addressing systemic oppression and in the area of immigration and settlement issues
- The OW legislation and computer system has not been scrapped which will continue to perpetuates the criminalization and disentanglement of the poor. In addition they have not ended the clawback of Child tax Credit nor waived the workfare requirement.
- There are no new Shelter beds and so City homeless shelters continue to take the overflow of women fleeing violence.

Continued...

Community Partner's Spotlight [continued]

- The Province refuses to maintain 80/20 cost share with City for homeless beds- saying they have no legislative mandate beyond "3 hots & a cot."
- Pay equity continues to be unfunded.
- Minimum wage is below the required \$10.00 an hour.
- There are no plans for a major public education program on the issues of violence and oppression.
- The injustice of the justice system continues and include lack of police response and accountability, lack of access to legal aid, inappropriate sentencing and the disconnect between criminal and family law systems.
- There are record numbers of mothers having to deal with the child welfare system due to woman abuse.

Finally, on balance of looking at what has changed and what remains outstanding- I need to remind myself that all of this is not the most important measure in evaluating where we are.

When I look at the first year of choosing change in the Province the most important measure must always be to look at what has fundamentally changed in the lives of the most vulnerable women who face violence.

I look at the lives of the women and children who come to Shelters like Nellie's or who are living in the community and still struggling with poverty, homelessness, violence and oppression and I do not see these changes evidenced.

There remains the legacy of a decade of mean spirited public policy, a sustained hate campaign against the poor, continued racism and intolerance, inadequate income, no affordable housing, no child-care, no access to education/employment and the

continued maiming and murdering of women who are our grandmothers, mothers, sisters, aunts, children, coworkers, neighbours, and friends.

The desperation, lack of hope, and sadness is worn like an old coat on the faces and in the eyes of too many women in our communities. They have come to believe that they are the problem.

So to move forward on change we should not be patient and understanding of our governments but instead demand planned systemic action that does fundamentally change the lived experiences of women who face multiple marginalization in our communities.

We need to be angry and critical and say how dare they ask us, and more importantly these women, to wait any longer. On their backs this global shift to all things capital, corporate and oppressive has locally eliminated opportunity, hope, and violated the promise of social citizenship, where all woman should have the right to participate and thrive.

In closing, while I can sit back, review the changes and see the possibility of change I have this time and luxury. I constantly remind myself that most of my sisters do not, as they must fight and struggle to survive each day.

I believe that to move forward we need to remain vigilant and focused on the goal of ending the violence and oppression of women through radical social change.

Cindy Cowan
Executive Director – Nellie's
President of OAITH

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

Dr. Martin Luther King

CIBA Vision Employees Hold Successful Silent Auction!

We wish to thank and recognize our new friends at CIBA Vision for their generous support and interest in the Assaulted Women's Helpline!

CIBA Vision, part of the Novartis Company, has their North American call Centre in Mississauga. The staff is encouraged to give back to the community and one of their initiatives this year was to hold a silent auction to benefit AWHL. A committed and enthusiastic group of employees organized the event that had both new and gently used donated items from staff-members available for everyone to bid on and have some fun. They proudly presented all the proceeds to support our work to help end violence against women.

If you or your company is interested in holding a silent auction, bake sale, raffle, or other similar event please contact us for more information about how we can help. You can reach us at sdiaz@awhl.org.



*At the Holiday Season, our thoughts
turn gratefully to those
who have made our progress possible.*

It is in this spirit we say...

*THANK YOU
AND BEST WISHES FOR THE HOLIDAYS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.*

Winter Solstice Celebration! Happy Muharramn!

Happy Chanukah!

Merry Christmas!

Happy Kwanzaa!

Happy Yule!

Love and Peace

Assaulted Women’s Helpline has Phenomenal First Year at the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon!

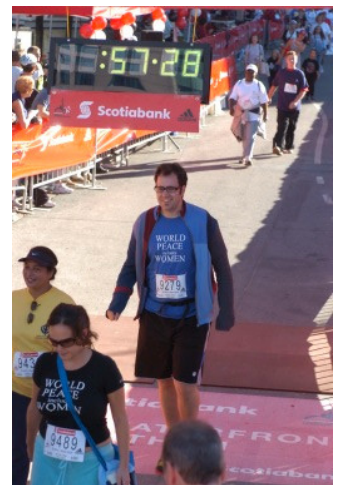
September 26th was a big day for many of us at the Assaulted Women’s Helpline when our team successfully participated, for the first time, in the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon. This event saw over 45 charities enter teams to walk, run or wheelchair the 5k, half-marathon or full-marathon. Our 42 runners and walkers exceeded our fundraising goal and raised over \$16,000 for our service. We were easily in the top 5 teams at the event.

We wish to extend a big **THANK YOU** to all our team members and supporters for their enthusiasm, generosity and kindness. We hope all those blisters were worth it – we certainly appreciate it!

CONGRATULATIONS to Cameron Forbes from Royal LePage for winning the title of top pledge raiser for our team! We proudly presented Cam with his prize of an amazing Bell Mobility Samsung 8100 Camera Phone with airtime package. Thank you to our friends at Bell Mobility for the very generous donation of this prize. The title of Second Place in our pledge raising contest goes to Jane Ashford who received a gift basket worth almost \$300.

We also want to especially recognize the Royal LePage corporate team of runners who raised almost 50% of our pledges for the event. This team of generous and kind individuals were supported by their company who have a long history of contributing to work in the women's services community. Thank you to Royal LePage.

Next year our team will be bigger and better and we hope you'll be a part of it! The event will be held on September 25th 2005, for more information contact Sandra at 416-364-4144 x236 or sdiaz@awhl.org.



Save the Date for our Second Annual “Celebrate the Women in Your Life” Event!



We are pleased to announce that **Friday, May 6, 2005** is the date of our second annual “Celebrate the Women in Your Life” fundraiser.

This pre-mothers day dinner and silent auction will be held at the beautiful Four Season's Hotel in Yorkville. The event will be hosted, once again, by Global Television's Neha Bhupal and will feature fine dining, entertainment from the breathtaking Zero Gravity Circus and an outstanding music act. Back by popular demand, guests can also enjoy the incredible "Pampering Zone" for relaxing massages and make-up application.

This year is extra special, as we will also be celebrating the Assaulted Women's Helpline's 20th anniversary. We look forward to seeing you there for a night to remember!

For information on tickets, volunteering, sponsorship or donating to our silent auction please contact Sandra Diaz at 416-364-4144 x236 or sdiaz@awhl.org. You can also visit our website at www.awhl.org.

Here are what just some of our guests last year had to say:

“AWHL's Celebrate the Women in Your Life fundraiser was a very special outing for us at Top Drawer Creative Inc. Everyone was wowed by the venue, the entertainment, the powerful sharing of stories, and most of all by the dedication of AWHL volunteers and staff. On a day-to-day basis, most people feel like they don't do enough for their community, and fellow citizens; we are grateful to have had the opportunity to learn about AWHL, and do our bit to support such a worthy cause. Make sure to save us a table for next year!”

*Brian Gahan
V.P. & Creative Director
Top Drawer Creative Inc.*

"I was very pleased to attend the inaugural fundraising event for AWHL. With all our busy schedules, its good to stop and take time to focus and contribute to AWHL which provides a vital first-line service to women of all ages and circumstance. The well-orchestrated evening came with good food, good entertainment, and good friends, uniting us all. I look forward to both the event and supporting AWHL next year and encourage others to do the same."

*Gloria Ben-David
Royal LePage Real Estate*

From Our Kitchen to Yours

Cranberry Crumb Pie

We hope you enjoy this pie as much as we do!



Servings: Makes one 9-inch pie

Serving Size: not available

Cook Time: 50 minutes

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Ingredients

- ◆ 1 (9-inch) unbaked pie shell
- ◆ 1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- ◆ 1 (14-ounce) can EAGLE BRAND® Sweetened Condensed Milk (NOT evaporated milk)
- ◆ 1/4 cup lemon juice
- ◆ 3 tablespoons light brown sugar
- ◆ 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- ◆ 1 (16-ounce) can whole berry cranberry sauce
- ◆ 1/4 cup cold margarine or butter
- ◆ 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- ◆ 3/4 cup chopped walnuts
- ◆ Instructions
- ◆ Preheat oven 425°

Instructions

- ◆ Bake pie shell 6 minutes; remove from oven. Reduce oven temperature to 375°.
- ◆ In large mixer bowl, beat cream cheese until fluffy.
- ◆ Gradually beat in EAGLE BRAND® until smooth.
- ◆ Stir in lemon juice. Pour into prepared pastry shell. In small bowl, combine 1 tablespoon sugar and cornstarch; mix well.
- ◆ Stir in cranberry sauce.
- ◆ Spoon evenly over cheese mixture.
- ◆ In medium mixing bowl, cut margarine into flour and remaining 2 tablespoons sugar until crumbly.
- ◆ Stir in nuts. Sprinkle evenly over cranberry mixture.
- ◆ Bake 45 to 50 minutes or until bubbly and golden.
- ◆ Cool. Serve at room temperature or chill thoroughly. Refrigerate leftovers.

www.eaglebrand.com

ASSAULTED WOMEN'S HELPLINE

P.O. Box 369, Station B
Toronto, Ontario
M5T 2W2

Crisis Line

GTA: (416) 863-0511

Toll Free (Ontario):

1-866-863-0511

#SAFE

#7233 on your Bell Mobility phone

Toll Free TTY (Ontario):

1-866-863-7868

Administration

Tel: (416) 364-4144

Fax: (416) 364-0563

Assaulted Women's Helpline Board of Directors

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Jane Bakewell
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Louise Collins
Chair - Resource Development Committee

Sherry Lewis

Sharon Simpson

Mission Statement

The Assaulted Women's Helpline offers a 24-hour telephone crisis line to all women who have experienced abuse.

We provide counseling, emotional support, information and referrals.

We recognize abuse as one example of women's social, political and economic inequality in the world. The Helpline is dedicated to working towards equality for all women.

We're on the Web!
www.AWHL.org

Message from the AWHL staff team

We are a multi-disciplinary team of women committed to providing exceptional, respectful and appropriate service to women who have and are experiencing violence or the effects of violence, crisis and abuse. We are a diverse, dedicated group, striving to be part of the solution to eradicate all forms of violence against women, first and foremost through the provision of the crisis line service. The Helpline staff team is also committed to working in a coordinated way with community partners and sister agencies towards bridging gaps in service and identifying emerging issues or trends relevant to the women we work with.

Responding, acting, forging change!
Staff Team, Assaulted Women's Helpline

The Assaulted Women's Helpline is a non-profit agency funded by the Ministry of Community, Family and Social Services, and City of Toronto.

AWHL is a charitable organization and gratefully accepts donations.

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