



Winter 2011

VOICES

Richmond Hill
**Chamber of Commerce
Business Achievement
Awards**

Domestic
Violence:
**Remembering
Wendy, Victoria
and Jesse**

Feature Article
**Guizzetti
Developments
Donates \$50K to
Capital Campaign**

**Check out
our Website!**

yellowbrickhouse.org



Welcome to VOICES



Join us in
our quest
to build
another
shelter

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of Yellow Brick House. It is the ongoing generosity of individuals like you that will help open the doors to a second Yellow Brick House shelter this year.

March 8th marked the global centenary year of International Women's Day. For 100 years, women and men from around the world have come together on this day to inspire women and celebrate their achievements.

The new millennium has witnessed a significant change in society's attitudes and thoughts about women's equality and emancipation. Over the past 100 years great improvements have been made – we now have female astronauts and prime ministers, girls are welcomed into colleges and universities, and women can choose to both work and have a family. Yet the fact remains that women and children are still victims of violence and abuse. The staggering reality of the prevalence of this issue has not changed. One out of every four women live in violent homes and one woman is killed every twelve days in Ontario.

On behalf of everyone at Yellow Brick House, I wish to thank you for celebrating International Women's Day, and taking the time to remember the women and children who have lost their lives because of domestic abuse. With your support, we are able to give domestic abuse victims a voice and bring an end to violence against women and children.

Lorris Herenda
Executive Director

Remembering Wendy, Victoria & Jesse

"It is a tragedy I don't wish on anyone. With the help and education of places like Yellow Brick House hopefully there will be less of this going on in the world."

– Scott Brisbourn, Wendy's brother



Wendy was many things - a caring daughter, a kind sister and a loyal friend - but most of all she was a loving and devoted mother to 7 year old Victoria and 3 year old Jesse. Estranged from her husband of 9 years, John, Wendy worked tirelessly at an Aurora hair salon in order to provide for her young family. In her spare time she had hoped to volunteer at the Yellow Brick House shelter. Sadly, Wendy became a tragic victim of domestic violence before she ever had the opportunity to give back to others in need.

In the early morning hours of March 5, 2006 after gruesomely taking Wendy's life, John then proceeded to brutally kill their two young children as they slept in their beds.

This senseless act of violence serves as a chilling reminder of how violence in relationships can escalate to serious injury, suicide and even murder. While it takes courage and personal strength to leave a volatile and abusive partner, we wonder if the tragic loss of Wendy, Victoria and Jesse could have been avoided if just one person had seen the warning signs of abuse.

On the 5th anniversary of the heartbreaking murders of Wendy, Victoria and Jesse we wish to honour their lives by raising awareness about the seriousness of domestic violence. We also wish to send our love and support to Wendy's surviving son, mom, dad, sister and brother and their families.

No matter the degree of abuse or neglect, if you are harmed in any way, or feel your life or well-being (or that of your child) is threatened, find a way to get out! We are here to help you.



**Please call our 24 hour crisis line #
1-800-263-3247**

"Wendy, Victoria and Jesse are ever present in our lives. There isn't a day that goes by that we don't long to see them and hold them in our arms again. I look at other young children and my heart breaks knowing our grandchildren never got a chance to grow up and enjoy life. Wendy was so excited to be starting a new life and she never got the chance either. For those out there who are experiencing abuse in

their lives, please don't put up with it thinking it will get better. Do go for help. Yellow Brick House is a wonderful place with wonderful people to help you through the fear, stress and upheaval of starting over. It is very sad that our daughter kept everything quiet and didn't go for help."

Jeanette & Bob Brisbourn

Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce Non Profit Business Achievement Award

On March 2, 2011 Yellow Brick House was recognized as a community leader by the Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce, and presented with the 2011 Not Profit Business Achievement Award. Each year the Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce recognizes and celebrates the outstanding work of companies, business leaders and organizations within the community. Yellow Brick House is honoured to be acknowledged for our ongoing efforts to make a difference in the well-being and safety of the women and children we serve. Thank you Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce for recognizing the important work of Yellow Brick House!



Nora Priestly, Mayor Dave Barrow, Lorris Herenda and Arun Channan, Chair of Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce



Michael Tremblay, President of Astellas, Marnie Sigmar, Anne Armstrong and Agnes Nemeth, both of Astellas

Kindness in Action

The Astellas Foundation, much like Yellow Brick House, is committed to making a difference in our community. To that end, Yellow Brick House was thrilled to receive the kind and generous donation of \$5,000 from the Astellas Foundation in support of our organization's programs and services.

Mending Hearts...Creating Dreams

Join us on Friday, April 29, 2011 for the 6th annual Mending Hearts...Creating Dreams Gala in support of the Yellow Brick House Second Shelter; Second Chances Capital Campaign. This exciting evening of dinner, auction and dancing features guest hosts Kate Wheeler and Allan Bell, with live performances by the Tone Dogs and vocalist Connie Scriver. It is an evening you won't want to miss. For ticket sales and sponsorship opportunities, contact Janice at 905.709.0900, ext. 2255 or janicei@yellowbrickhouse.org.



IBM & Raptors Lift the Spirits of Yellow Brick House Clients

We would like to send a big thanks to the kind people of IBM for inviting Yellow Brick House clients and children to join them in a private box at the Raptors' Game. It was a great afternoon for everyone who attended – and for some an amazing first experience at the Air Canada Centre. Thank You!

Day of Giving

The GAP and Banana Republic stores at Vaughan Mills have come together to personally outfit over 52 Yellow Brick House clients and their children. These extraordinary volunteers spent an evening at Yellow Brick House working with clients to put together outfits that reflect each woman's personal style. Over the holiday season, this same group of volunteers sponsored 20 families and provided \$3000 in gift cards for the teenage clients of our clients. They also provided short-term employment opportunities for many of the women who use our services. Thank you!



The Gift of Yogi Bear

We wish to thank Investors Group (Concord Office) for planning a special day at the movies for our clients and their children. The moms and their children were thrilled to have a private showing of Yogi Bear. And of course, the kids couldn't get enough of Marlie's Mascot Duke, or the popcorn and pop that was also supplied by Investors Group. All who attended had a wonderful time. Thank You!

Mark your calendars...

Pepsi Refresh

Starting May 1, 2011 Yellow Brick House will need your support in the Pepsi Refresh Everything Grant Campaign. Log on daily to www.refresheverything.ca and vote for the Second Shelter, Second Chances Campaign. You can show your support by sharing our message and voting every day for two months. At the end of the two month voting period, the organization with the most support will be granted \$100,000 towards their project.



Guizzetti Developments Donates \$50K to Capital Campaign

On February 10, 2011, Stephano Guizzetti, President of Guizzetti Developments Inc. presented Yellow Brick House with a cheque for \$50,000 in support of the Second Shelter, Second Chances Capital Campaign. With this contribution, the Guizzetti family is helping to create life-saving opportunities for the women and children who need the support of Yellow Brick House. This generous gift is symbolic of the strong character of the York Region community. Thank You Guizzetti Family for your kindness and generosity!



Vito Spatafora, Richmond Hill Regional Councillor and Tastes of the Hill Chair with Lorris Herenda



Lorris Herenda, Vivian Risi and Stefano Guizzetti

Tastes of the Hill Raises \$30K for Second Shelter

As a beneficiary of the 4th Annual Tastes of the Hill Festival, Yellow Brick House was presented with a cheque for \$30,000 from the Town of Richmond Hill on January 24, 2011. We can't thank Vito Spatafora and the Town enough for their unbelievable support. A special thank you also goes out to Shelley Brooks for her volunteer leadership. A special painting, created by one of our shelter residents was presented to Vito to show our appreciation!

Spring Meets Summer Fashion Show

On Sunday, May 1st from 12:00 noon to 2:30pm Markham Youth Council presents the Spring Meets Summer Fashion Show at the Markville Mall. Don't miss this opportunity to preview the season's hottest clothing trends while supporting Yellow Brick House!

yellowbrickhouse.org



A Word From the Capital Campaign Chair



Our goal to build a second Yellow Brick House shelter is becoming a reality. Together, we have worked extremely hard to get to this important milestone in the Capital Campaign. With your support we are determined to forge ahead with our goal to have the shelter open and ready to receive women and children this year.

We need the sustained commitment of our entire community to reach the Capital Campaign goal. Please be the key that provides safety and shelter to so many more women and children this year. Your support is critical to making this shelter a reality.

Vivian Risi | Royal Le Page Your Community Realty
Capital Campaign Chair



Women to Women

The Vaughan Chamber of Commerce, through its Women to Women initiative, raised over \$600 for Yellow Brick House! Vaughan Chamber Chair Michael Manett and PowerStream's Debbie Conte presented the cheque to Nahid Amin from Yellow Brick House.

Angels of Influence

Some Like It Hot!

On February 20th, Angel of Influence Katie Toksoy, producer of Pandora's Box Salon, put on another fabulous afternoon of art and entertainment in support of Yellow Brick House. Mixing the flavors of Latin ballroom, the Spanish guitar and South American theatre – this was definitely a night for those who like it hot! The next performance of Pandora's Box Salon will be April 17th, 2011.



Curling for Yellow Brick House

On November 27, 2010, the Unionville Curling Club Business Women's Invitational Bonselpiel took place to raise much needed funds for the Yellow Brick House second emergency shelter. The event was a great success! Thank you to Royal LePage, Your Community Realty for sponsoring this memorable event.



Margaret McLeod and Andrea Accinelli, Co-Chairs.



Your donation, supporting the Yellow Brick House, will make living violence free lives a possibility for thousands of women and children in York Region.

YES, I want to support the Yellow Brick House!

Here is my contribution of \$100 \$50 \$25 I prefer to give \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/Province/Postal _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I have enclosed a personal cheque

I want to charge my Visa MasterCard Amex

Card # _____

Expiry _____ Signature _____

I would like to make the gift: In honour of In memory of

Their name _____

Send acknowledgement card to:

Their name _____

Their address _____

City/Province/Postal _____

* My name on acknowledgement card: _____

* If not specified, we will use your name as it appears on your cheque or credit card.

Holiday Thanks

On behalf of everyone at Yellow Brick House and the many women and children we serve, we wish to express our most sincere thanks to the countless individuals, businesses, families and organizations that generously gave time, gifts, food and clothing to the Yellow Brick House during the 2010 Holiday Program.



Yellow Brick House would like to extend a special thank you to the following businesses and organizations who generously gave of their time and resources to help make the holidays a wonderful time for our clients and their children. **Thank you!**

Aeropostale
Access Rehab Inc.
AT&T
Avon Canada
Banana Republic Heartland
Bank of Montreal
Beta Sigma Phi-Kapa Chi Chapter
BMO Bank of Montreal
Brenda's Foundation
Browne & Co
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Capco International
Castlepoint Investments Inc.
Craigmore Farm Inc.
Dortec Industries
Dr. Barry Shapiro
DTZ Barnicke
Engineered Air
Equitable Life of Canada
Free the Children
Genpak LP
GE Digital Energy
Holiday Heroes and the Dunin Foundation
Hollandview Trail Retirement Community
Honda Canada Inc.
IBM
IBM Women's Network
Investors Group Financial Services Inc.
Johnson & Johnson
Johnson Insurance/Unifund Assurance
Kappa Chi

Kiddie Canada
Magna Cam-Slide (West Plant)
Molson Coors
Ontario Power Generation Inc.
Pause Awhile Equestrian Centre
Pearson Education Canada
Power Stream
Promenade Cadillac Fairview
Pure Motivation Fitness
Robinson's Karate School
Royal LePage Your Community Realty
Scotia Bank
Shiseido Canada Inc.
Shoppers Drug Mart
St. Clement Catholic School
St. Maximilian Kolbe C.H.S.
TACC Construction
Tag Idea Revolution
The Estate of Harold B. Schmidt
The GAP/Banana Republic/Old Navy
The PostCard Factory
Trans-North Pipelines Inc.
Toronto Montessori Schools
Town of Richmond Hill Fire Department
Unionville Curling Club
Vaughan Chamber of Commerce
Windham Ridge Public School
Yamaha Motor Canada Ltd.
York Region Assoc. of Basketball Officials
York Region Public Health Services

Word from the Chair

We are extremely excited to be making significant progress in our Capital Campaign, and to be moving closer to our second Yellow Brick House emergency shelter later this year. The support and dedication that our community has shown for the Second Shelter, Second Chances Capital Campaign exemplifies hope – hope that we will provide families with the safe haven they need, hope that fewer women and children will feel trapped in abusive relationships and hope that our commitment to eliminating domestic violence will be realized.

As Yellow Brick House enters this new chapter in its history, it is evident that there is a real synergy with all those who are making the second shelter a reality. Now more than ever, we need to draw on our community members to see us through the Campaign. You can be the key to opening the door to our new shelter.

Nora Priestly
Chair, Board of Directors

Yoga Fest 2011

YogaFest is an event about empowerment, confidence, and inner strength. Mothers and daughters are invited to take part this Mother's Day in this fundraising event for Yellow Brick House. Yogafest will provide Yellow Brick House with funds towards the Capital Campaign while providing participants with a morning activity that promotes vitality. The event will feature three Yoga classes, prizes and a silent auction. Participants will put pledges towards their personal fundraising goals and support Yellow Brick House to build a new shelter. In three hours we will help shape the future for thousands of women and children.

YogaFest will be held on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 8, 2011 from 8:00am to 11:00am in the Centre Court of Markville Mall. Visit www.joinyogafest.com

For more information, or to sponsor YogaFest please contact Rosetta Parasiliti at 905-264-8884 ext. 30, rosetta@thinkcompass.ca

Thank You Compass!



Did you? Know

You can donate to **Yellow Brick House** in honour of someone special and we'll send them a card – acknowledging your kind gift!

