

# Unstoppable Leadership



Vivian Risi, Capital Campaign Chair, Nancy Coxford, Chair, Major Gifts Division, Nora Priestly, Chair Board of Directors

Yellow Brick House is incredibly fortunate to have Vivian Risi, Capital Campaign Chair, Nancy Coxford, Chair of the Major Gifts Division and Nora Priestly, Yellow Brick House Board Chair leading the way to a successful Capital Campaign. These key volunteers have built the Second Shelter, Second Chances Capital Campaign from its inception. With a goal to raise four million dollars to open and operate a second Yellow Brick House emergency shelter, these leaders have been focusing on building their teams of support.

To learn more about the Second Shelter, Second Chances Capital Campaign, please visit [www.yellowbrickhouse.org](http://www.yellowbrickhouse.org) or call Marnie Sigmar, Manager, Resource Development at 905.709.0900, ext. 2233.

## Women Abuse Prevention Month

November is recognized as Women Abuse Prevention Month in Ontario, and Yellow Brick House joins the province in recognizing every woman's right to live in safety and security – free from the threat of violence.

*Between 2002 and 2007 165 Ontario women and children lost their lives as a result of domestic violence.*

## International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

Recognized around the world as International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, November 25th gives us the opportunity to raise public awareness of domestic abuse and draws attention to the continuing need for action to eliminate violence against women.

## National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women

Established in 1991, December 6th is an opportunity for all Canadians to remember women and girls who have died as a result of violence, to think of those who currently face violence in their lives, and to consider actions towards eliminating violence against women.

*Your donation, supporting the Yellow Brick House Capital Campaign, 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 Second Shelter, Second Chances Capital Campaign!

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to make the gift:  
 In honour of  In memory of  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Their name \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/Province/Postal \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Send acknowledgement card to:  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_ Their name \_\_\_\_\_  
 I have enclosed a personal cheque Their address \_\_\_\_\_  
 I want to charge my \_\_\_\_\_ City/Province/Postal \_\_\_\_\_  
 Visa  MasterCard  Amex \* My name on acknowledgement card:  
 Card # \_\_\_\_\_ \* If not specified, we will use your name as it appears on your cheque or credit card.  
 Expiry \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# A Word from the Board Chair...

The holiday season always draws attention that the calendar is quickly approaching the end of another year. Reflection on where we are as an organization, how much further do we have to go to achieve our goals is something we examine, measure and contemplate as a Board. It ensures that our growth is strategic, your dollars are maximized to provide help, care and empowerment to women and their children.

Building a second Yellow Brick House shelter in York Region is one of our goals and a major focus. In spite of challenging economic times and no shortage of competing priorities, our neighbors, family, friends and community members continue their financial support to make the second shelter a reality. We aren't there yet, but getting closer every month. The statistics confirm the need for additional beds and personal stories from our residents confirm anything is possible when someone gets 'a second chance'. Please consider a contribution to our Second Shelter, Second Chances Campaign. Your dollars will be well used by an organization that has more than 32 years of positively impacting women and children who live in our community.

On behalf of the women and men who volunteer as Board members, the staff and other volunteers who support Yellow Brick House, our heartfelt thanks for your generosity and support. You are helping the women and children we serve. With your continued support, we will reach our goal of a second shelter for York Region in 2011.



Leaders of the Canadian Automobile Dealer's Association show support to Yellow Brick House

Thank you to the Executive team at the Canadian Automobile Dealer's Association in Markham for organizing a collection of personal care items for our shelter residents. Inspired by the work we do, they generously donated twelve boxes of shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, baby wipes and other personal care items.

*Your support is appreciated and your gifts are well received by the women and children who seek our support.*



Yellow Brick House volunteers join Humanities Team Canada volunteers

## Pleasure Valley

We wish to thank Humanities Team Canada for planning a special day at Pleasure Valley for our clients and their children. The day at this beautiful conservation area was filled with lots of fun games, a scavenger hunt and a delicious lunch. Transportation was generously donated by Stock Transportation. All who attended had a wonderful time.

*Thank you!*

**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!

## Honeywell Gives Back

Thank you to the incredible team from Honeywell who generously offered their time and effort to take on a few major painting projects at the shelter and Reta's Place. Your work has brightened many of our living spaces!



Capital Campaign  
**Unstoppable Leadership**

Domestic Violence:  
**Anastasia's Gift**

Feature Article  
**A Gala to Remember**

**Mark your Calender!**

6<sup>th</sup> Annual Mending Hearts...Creating Dreams Gala Friday April 29, 2011

# Welcome to VOICES



Your support is appreciated beyond words

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support. Yellow Brick House is built on the kind generosity of the community and donors like you. Without you, we would be unable to provide the services we do.

Yellow Brick House has empowered abused women and children to rebuild their lives for over 32 years. Last year alone, we reached out to over 4500 women and children- a twelve percent increase from the previous year. Still, hundreds of families could not be accommodated due to lack of shelter beds.

We know that one in three women worldwide experience abuse. We know that a woman is killed every twelve days in Ontario alone. Still, there are a total of 55 shelter beds in York Region for a population of half a million women and children.

Our Capital Campaign, *Second Shelter, Second Chances*, will provide additional shelter beds in the southern part of the Region. With your support, we can ensure that no woman or child is denied safety. Be the key that opens the doors to our second shelter.

Lorris Herenda  
Executive Director



Marnie, of Yellow Brick House, and Anastasia

## Anastasia's Gift

Anastasia came to Yellow Brick House when she was 75 years old after having endured decades of unthinkable abuse. Her story is one of hardship, terror and ultimately courage. As a senior, Anastasia's decision to finally leave her abusive relationship took a tremendous amount of courage and a remarkable leap of faith. After working a full career, raising children and becoming a grandmother, she left everything she had worked for and everyone she knew to break away from her perilous relationship.

She quickly realized that her decision was well overdue. Anastasia received the counselling and support she needed to build a life free of violence. Little did we know that when she left the shelter to live independently, she opened a bank account for the specific purpose of saving money to contribute to Yellow Brick House. For years, Anastasia saved money when she could with the intention of someday willing it to the shelter. In October of this year, ten years from the time she stayed at the shelter, she decided that she didn't want to wait. She recognized that the need to support the Campaign was now – and she decided to present her gift to the organization.

We are thankful beyond words to Anastasia for her kind and generous gift. More than that, we are tremendously proud to see her live the life she dreamed of and certainly deserves. Now, thankfully, she will be able to see the difference her gift will make to those who follow her path of courage to Yellow Brick House.

**Thank you Anastasia, from the bottom of our hearts!**

***"Nobody deserves to live like this. Everyone deserves to live peacefully."***  
Former Yellow Brick House resident



Jamie, Maddie, Callie and Selena show us that Leadership comes in all sizes

We wish to extend a huge thank you to Jamie, Maddie, Callie and Selena founders of the Love Foundation for their incredible gift and efforts to support Yellow Brick House. These industrious leaders took the initiative to raise awareness about the issue of domestic violence and collect wish list items to help the women and children staying at the shelter. We are so honoured to have been chosen by the Love Foundation.

**Thank You!!!**

# Mending Hearts...Creating Dreams!

The 5th annual Mending Hearts...Creating Dreams Gala took place at the Angus Glen Golf Club and Conference Centre in April 2010. The event was a sold out success! On what was one of the nicest days of the year, guests enjoyed the culinary delights of York Region leading chefs from Ambiyon, Annina's Bakeshop and Café, Asoka Bar Lounge, Cynthia's Chinese Restaurant, Eagles Nest Golf Club, fraktals, Il Fornello, Johnny's Bistro, Joia Restaurant and Wine Bar, Maunder's Catering, My Kind of Pastry Chef, Orchid Thai, Sin'Sational Sweets, Terra Restaurants, The Greek Bakery, The Roving Chef, Unionville Arms, Village Grocer and Zefferini Restaurant.

We wish to extend a heart-felt thank you to Gala Chair Pam Odam who led an amazing team of event volunteers. We also wish to thank our hosts Galit Salomon and Alan Bell, our event sponsors, silent auction item donors, dancers Cody Bonnell and Melanie Mah from the hit show So You Think You Can Dance, the Tonedogs, the L'il Rascals Horn Club Quartet and all of our generous attendees. We look forward to seeing you again at the sixth annual Gala on April 29, 2011.

For sponsorship opportunities and event tickets, please contact Janice at 905.709.0900 or [janicei@yellowbrickhouse.org](mailto:janicei@yellowbrickhouse.org)

**Thanks again Gala team!**



Angus Glen



Police Chief Armand and Mrs. LaBarge



Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti congratulates Pam and Lorris on a successful 5th Annual Gala



Great Supporters Kelly and Nigel of Angus Glen



Pam Odam, Gala Chair and Lorris Herenda, Executive Director



Return sponsor Warren Jestin and his team from Scotia Bank



Gala Hosts, Allan Bell and Galit Solomon of CTV



The active and popular silent auction tables



The beautiful patio at Angus Glen



## Guy's Night Out

We wish to extend a huge thank you to Angel of Influence Sandra Porretta, Nico Facciuolo and their team of volunteers for planning a successful Guy's Night Out poker tournament on May 14. This great fundraising event took place at the Bradford Community Centre and was well received by everyone who attended. Funds raised that evening support the Capital Campaign!

## Pandora's Box Salon

Angel of Influence Katie Toksoy, producer of Pandora's Box Salon has already raised \$2000 toward her goal of \$10K for the first of five arts events in Aurora. This is a series mixing classical music, dance, drama, visual and culinary arts. The first of five cultural salons was 95% sold and a huge success in many ways.

## Thank You Tastes of the Hill

Yellow Brick House was delighted to be chosen as one of two charities to benefit from the Tastes of the Hill event hosted by the Town of Richmond Hill. The event was a multicultural food festival that took place on October 3 at the Richmond Green Sports Centre in Richmond Hill. Chefs from local restaurants featured their culinary specialties. The event also featured special performances by area children's dance groups, bagpipers, steel drummers and other performing artists.

We would like to thank event host Vito Spatafora and his team at the Town of Richmond Hill for planning a fabulous and successful event. We were very pleased to be chosen and appreciate the support beyond words!

We also wish to extend a special thank you to Shelley Brooks, Yellow Brick House volunteer extraordinaire, for representing our organization from the beginning of the event planning through every step of the way. Your time and talent is valued more than you know!



Vito Spatafora, event host, and Richmond Hill Mayor Dave Barrow thank event supporters and attendees.



## Yellow Brick House Raffle:

Don't miss out on the chance to win all 5 of the fabulous bags!



To purchase tickets, please contact Janice at [janicei@yellowbrickhouse.org](mailto:janicei@yellowbrickhouse.org) or at 905.709.0900, ext. 2255.



Kathy Kirschner of Royal LePage Your Community Realty and Bradford West Gwillimbury Mayor Doug White let out a sigh of relief after parachuting from over 13,500 feet in the air!

## Second Jump, Second Shelter

On September 17, Angel of Influence Kathy Kirschner and Mayor White conquered their fears by parachuting to raise money for the Second Shelter, Second Chances Capital Campaign. This jump was the second for Kathy, an ardent supporter of the Campaign. Thank you Mayor White and Kathy for your courageous support!

[yellowbrickhouse.org](http://yellowbrickhouse.org)

