

SERVICES PROVIDED

- 24 hour crisis telephone counselling
- Safe emergency shelter – 24 hours/day, 7 days/week
- Individual counselling
- Group counselling
- Children's programs and parenting support
- Legal assistance regarding separation, assault, family and criminal law
- Court support
- Information on applications (i.e. custody, support, restraining orders, legal aid)
- Brochures and articles on family law, criminal law and woman abuse
- Information and assistance with housing searches
- Referrals to community services
- Information on immigration issues
- Public and professional education to various aspects of the York Region community

MISSION STATEMENT

Yellow Brick House is mandated to provide services in York Region to women who have experienced violence and abuse, and their children.

Yellow Brick House will:

- Provide emergency, crisis, and short term supportive counselling in individual and group format, information, referral services, advocacy, and practical assistance to women and children.
- Provide secure emergency shelter and transitional housing to women and children.
- Promote the establishment and maintenance of a respectful, welcoming, non-violent environment at all its facilities it owns or leases.
- Organize, participate in, and/or support community events and public education initiatives designed to increase individual and community awareness of issues related to violence against women and children.
- Promote and/or contribute to social change initiatives designed to achieve equality for all persons and contribute to the eradication of violence against women and children.

YELLOW BRICK HOUSE

CHILD COUNSELLING

Serving York Region

Emergency Shelter

24 Hour Crisis Line

905-727-1944 or

1-800-263-3247

Shelter Fax: 905-727-3368

Administration

905-727-0930

1-800-263-2231

Fax: 905-727-7316

Outreach Office

905-737-8778

1-877-222-8438

Outreach Fax: 905-883-6526

P.O. BOX 278, Aurora, ON L4G 3H4

info@yellowbrickhouse.org

www.yellowbrickhouse.org



SHELTER, COUNSELLING, EDUCATION

The Child Counsellors at Yellow Brick House offer short term individual counselling to children who have been exposed to domestic abuse. Even when children have not directly witnessed abuse, they are still impacted by the presence of abuse in their home.

Consider the following impact on children:

- 70% of all incidents of domestic violence are witnessed by children
- Of children who witness violence against their mother, 75% of males are likely to become abusive and 75% of females are likely to enter into an abusive relationship

Children who have witnessed violence at home may display emotional, social and behavioural disturbances that could include:

- Withdrawal from family and friends
- Low self-esteem
- Nightmares
- Academic difficulties
- Self-blame
- Aggression against peers, family members and property.



Our unique Child Counselling program offers support to children in a one-to-one setting. Our counsellors provide children with a safe place to explore feelings, be validated, and be better equipped to manage themselves, their relationships, and daily tasks.

Our Child Counsellors provide a differential way of responding to children, by promoting a flexible, culturally sensitive, and supportive intervention, focused directly on the child. Counsellors address



a variety of issues such as behavioural difficulties, low self-esteem, anger management problems, and feelings of isolation. Children learn how to deal with the separation (and possible divorce) of their parents and are better able to understand these changes in their family structure.

In addition to the challenges that children may be experiencing as a result of domestic abuse, most mothers/caregivers feel overwhelmed by their situation and, as a consequence, may have a difficult time responding to the children's emotional



needs. Working together with the children and their caregiver, our counsellors assist the family in identifying and implementing plans to meet the needs of the children and the family as a whole.

The criteria for the program are as follows:

- Children ages 4-15 years
- Mother/caregiver and child are currently not living with abusive partner
- The child is experiencing difficulty as a result of their exposure to domestic abuse in the home

For further information or to make a referral, please contact us at:

905-737-8778 or 1-877-222-8438, x2225 or x2226

