

What if home is a *dangerous* place to be?

Every six days. That's how often a woman in Canada is *murdered by her intimate partner*.

Yellow Brick House, situated in York Region, serves abused women and children across GTA.

We have two emergency shelters and offer community counselling and supportive programs to women and children not staying in our shelters which include: individual and group counselling, family court support, immigration support and transitional housing support.

We serve **over 6000 women and children** every single year.

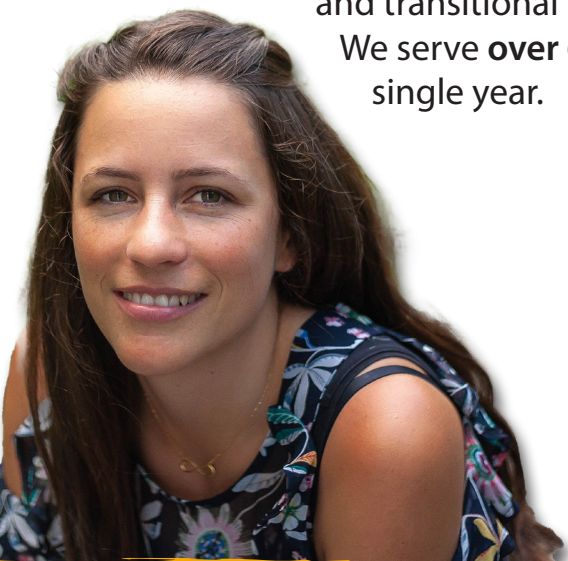
You can help women and children escape violence and rebuild their lives.



"He said if I disobeyed him, he'd no longer be my immigration sponsor. He'd have me deported – and he'd keep our daughter."

"When he found out I had been talking with other moms-to-be, he smashed my cell phone. He said I didn't need other friends: I was lucky he loved me, since no one else would want someone like me."

 **yellowbrickhouse**
Rebuilding Lives
Empowering Abused Women & Children



Adults may think that the kids don't know about abuse – but in most cases, they do.

- Domestic violence has significant negative effects on children's emotional, cognitive, social, and behavioral development.
- Children who witness violence in the home have *twice* the rate of psychiatric disorders as children from non-violent homes.
- *Sixty percent* of children from violent homes have post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

At Yellow Brick House, we work with children to help them recover from trauma.

**Together, let's
help children recover
and grow toward
healthy, whole
lives.**



"I finally feel like I'll be able to manage for myself and my kids."

What does it take to rebuild a life?

Financial goal: \$775,000
to support **unfunded shelter beds** per year

Will you make a five-year pledge to help families stay safe?

8 weeks of safety for woman \$14K

8 weeks of safety for woman AND child \$28K

8 weeks of safety for a woman and two children \$42K

Give them the **skills, resources, and hope** to rebuild:

safe living space
trauma counselling
parenting classes
group support
legal information access
transitional housing support
employment support
transportation
community service referrals
basic housewares
food and clothing



"At first, it was hard to remember who I used to be – confident, intelligent. But I'm regaining my self-assurance."



Pre-pandemic Markham shelter had *16 beds and 3 cribs*, and Aurora shelter had *25 beds and 7 cribs* offering a total of **41 beds and 10 cribs**. Due to the pandemic, we had to convert our congregate shelter space into family zones which *reduced our capacity by 30%*.

We were successful in securing federal funding to expand our Markham shelter and add 5 more family units which will bring us back to our pre-pandemic capacity. Completion date July 1, 2023.

Our Markham shelter that opened February, 1, 2012, although purchased by MCCSS, ***has not received sustainable operating funding***.

- In summary, only 25 beds out of 41 are funded, and we receive \$48,422 per shelter bed
- This leaves us a ***funding gap of \$775,000 for 16 unfunded beds*** that we are expected to fundraise yearly. In addition the 10 cribs are not funded
- During the pandemic, there has been a national increase of 30% in DV
- In Ontario there has been a 53% increase in domestic homicides

The need for these beds to remain open is critical as we are only one of the two violence against women agencies in York Region, and these beds save lives.

Yellow Brick House needs your pledge to provide a safe haven for women and children in our shelter. It is important to note that the average duration of stay for a woman in our shelter is approximately 8 weeks. With your invaluable support, we can make a remarkable difference and save lives.

"I realize now that I don't deserve to live in an abusive relationship."

"Staff helped me break down each of the obstacles that I thought was impossible to overcome."



"We urge you to consider making a contribution to the Yellow Brick House shelter program, dedicated to safeguarding at-risk women and children. The significance of supporting victims of violence remains profound, especially in the aftermath of the recent global challenges."

—Jim MacSween, York Regional Police Chief

Funding need to keep shelter beds and cribs open

Our immediate needs are funding existing infrastructure by providing funding for unfunded shelter beds so that we can continue keeping them open.



Lisa Toma Speech

*Importance of Nights of Safety
Walk 2022*

*Help Women and Children
Escape Domestic Violence
and Rebuild their Lives*

To donate, contact Pamela Deveau at 905-709-0900
(ext. 2233) or pamelad@yellowbrickhouse.org.

yellowbrickhouse.org • 905-709-0900 • 52 West Beaver Creek Rd., Unit 4, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 1L9
Charitable Registration Number: 11910 5187 RR0001 • Crisis & Support Line: 1-800-263-3247

Ontario



United Way
Greater Toronto



@yellowbrckhouse