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She Deserves It....Rebuild Haven House

Cambridge, ON- Today, Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region officially announced the site upon which to rebuild Haven House, the shelter supporting abused women and their children in Cambridge and North Dumfries. Both Kathryn McGarry, MPP of Cambridge and North Dumfries, and Mayor Doug Craig offered their support for this new project. Located at the corner of Acorn Way and Elgin Street, the site provides easy access to transportation, recreation and shopping facilities.

The new shelter will increase current capacity from 30 beds to 45 beds, will accommodate adequate space for programming and partnerships, and be an environment conducive to healing. The rebuilt Haven House will feature a notable security system, private entrance for clients, a commercial kitchen and servery, expandable bedrooms (for women with several children), designated program spaces for youth, music therapy, spiritual care, medical care and much more.

Mary Zilney, CEO of Women's Crisis Services states, "It is unacceptable that the prevalence of violence against women in Waterloo Region has driven the need for this project. Every abused woman in Cambridge and North Dumfries deserves a facility that is conducive to her being able to move forward and break the intergenerational cycle of abuse so that the next generation does not need to seek our help. We now turn to each of you for your support. Please join the "She Deserves It" campaign so that abused women and their children do receive what they deserve, a new Haven House."

In 1991, the existing Haven House was originally built for 11 women and children, but now regularly houses 30-32, causing extremely crowded living conditions. Plans for the new shelter are well underway. A building committee, consisting of Dave Aston, Vince Varga, Greg Voisin, Paul Dietrich, Angelo Innocente and the MTE team has been established. Greg Poste, from MMMC Architect will be the lead Architect for the project. In addition MHBC Planning has offered all their services in-kind for the project. The facility will be modeled after Anselma House, the Kitchener shelter which opened in 2011.

MTE Consultants have demonstrated their continued commitment to our agency by offering "in kind" civil, environmental and structural engineering services for the project. Other lead donations include the Catholic Diocese of Hamilton (\$500,000) and Toyota Motor Manufacturing (\$250,000) as well as several other community leaders and advocates for Women's Crisis Services. The fundraising team has been established, and is chaired by Sara McLennan of Gore Mutual Insurance.

In the past, the location of the shelter has been kept confidential, but a new philosophy has been brought forward by releasing the address to facilitate access for women and their children and to help bring the issue of violence against women to the forefront in the minds of the community. This \$8.4 million project is underway; with a \$4.5 million community goal announced.

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Women's Crisis Services offers two emergency shelters, Haven House and Anselma House, plus Outreach services for abused women and their children throughout Waterloo Region. We are the only agency of its kind to provide these services in Waterloo Region. Check out the website at; www.wcswr.org/rebuild-haven-house

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