



2026 Annual Report

The Hope We Build Together

Stronger Communities, Safer Futures



Halton Women's Place
Healthy Relationships • Healthy Communities



A MESSAGE FROM

Our Executive Director

"Hope isn't something we simply talk about — it is something we build together."

LAURIE HEPBURN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Every day at Halton Women's Place, we see what hope looks like. Sometimes it's a woman walking through our doors with nowhere else to go. Sometimes it's a child finally sleeping through the night. Sometimes it's the keys to a new apartment or the confidence to take the next step toward a life free from violence. Those moments remind me that hope isn't something we simply talk about—it is something we build together.



This past year brought both challenges and opportunities. Like many organizations across our sector, we continued to see the impacts of the housing crisis, rising costs of living, and increasingly complex needs among the women and families we serve. More people are reaching out for support, often after exhausting every other option. While the demand continues to grow, so does the resilience of the survivors we have the privilege of walking alongside every day.

I couldn't be prouder of our team. Our staff show up each day with compassion, professionalism, and unwavering commitment, often during some of the most difficult moments in a person's life. Whether through emergency shelter, outreach services, court support, children's programming, housing assistance, or public education, they continue to make a meaningful difference in our community.

This work simply wouldn't be possible without the people who stand beside us. To our donors, volunteers, funders, community partners, and supporters—thank you. Your generosity, collaboration, and belief in our mission allow us to provide safety, support, and hope to women and children across Halton.

This was also a year of strengthening our organization. We continued implementing our strategic plan, invested in our people, expanded partnerships, and looked for new opportunities to better meet the evolving needs of our community. Building a strong organization today ensures we can continue responding with compassion and excellence for years to come.

While the challenges ahead remain significant, I continue to be inspired by what is possible when a community comes together around a shared purpose. Every act of kindness, every partnership, every volunteer hour, and every donation helps create a future where women and children can live free from violence.

Thank you to our dedicated staff for their tireless dedication to the families we serve each day, and to our Board of Directors for their leadership, guidance, and commitment throughout the year.

Together, we are building hope. Together, we are creating stronger communities and safer futures.

Laurie Hepburn
Executive Director



A MESSAGE FROM

Our Board Chair

"Lasting change takes more than one organization; it takes a community committed to moving forward together."

IRENE SANTOS, BOARD CHAIR



Serving as Board Chair of Halton Women's Place this past year has been both a privilege and a responsibility. It has given me a deeper appreciation for the strength of this organization, the dedication of its people, and the importance of ensuring Halton Women's Place is well positioned to meet the needs of our community today and into the future.

The work described throughout this report is made possible by an organization that is committed not only to responding to immediate needs, but also to building the capacity, partnerships, and resilience required to create lasting impact. As a Board, our responsibility is to help ensure that our foundation remains strong.

Good governance is at the heart of that responsibility. Throughout the year, the Board focused on providing thoughtful oversight, supporting sound decision-making, stewarding the organization's resources responsibly, and keeping a clear focus on the long-term sustainability of Halton Women's Place. We are accountable to the women, children and families we serve, as well as to the many individuals and organizations who place their trust in us.

The Board is particularly mindful that the environment in which Halton Women's Place operates is changing. Increasing demand for services, pressures within the housing system, rising costs and increasingly complex needs all reinforce the importance of having a strong, sustainable organization. While these challenges are significant, they also underscore the value of thoughtful planning, collaboration, and continued investment in the future.

One of the greatest strengths of Halton Women's Place is the people and partnerships behind the organization. I have been deeply impressed by the professionalism and commitment of the staff and by the leadership of our Executive Director. I have also seen the tremendous value of the relationships we have with funders, donors,

volunteers, community organizations, and other partners across Halton. No single organization can address gender-based violence on its own. Progress depends on a strong and connected community working toward a shared goal of safer futures.

As Board Chair, I am proud of the progress made this year and of the thoughtful work underway to strengthen Halton Women's Place for the years ahead. Our role is not simply to oversee where the organization is today, but to help ensure it has the leadership, resources and resilience needed to continue serving our community tomorrow.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend my sincere appreciation to our staff, volunteers, donors, funders, community partners, and supporters. Your commitment makes the work of Halton Women's Place possible and strengthens our collective ability to create change.

I would also like to thank my fellow Board members for the time, expertise and care they bring to their roles. Their commitment to strong governance and to the mission of Halton Women's Place is deeply valued.

It is an honour to serve as Board Chair. I look forward to continuing this work together, strengthening the organization, supporting those who depend on its services and helping build a safer, stronger future for women, children and families across Halton.

Irene Santos
Board Chair



Who We Are

OUR VISION

A future where women and children are safe, supported and free from violence and abuse.

OUR MISSION

Halton Women's Place is a gateway to safety, support and advocacy for women and children who have experienced violence and abuse as they rebuild their lives.



OUR VALUES



HOPE

We honour the resilience and dignity of our clients, fostering compassionate environments that support healing and independence.



CHOICE

We recognize and respect a woman's right to self-determination, and we support and empower her decision-making.



COLLABORATION

We work in partnership with survivors and our community to build a supportive network and drive collective impact.



EXCELLENCE

We commit to continuous learning and innovation, delivering high quality, forward-thinking programs that meet the evolving needs of survivors and their families.



THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

Our 2025–2028 Strategic Plan

In 2025, Halton Women's Place launched The Power of Community, our 2025–2028 Strategic Plan. It provides a clear roadmap for how we will strengthen our services, grow our reach and work with our community to create lasting change for women and children experiencing violence.

OUR WORK OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS IS FOCUSED ON FOUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:



EXPAND CAPACITY

Meet increasing needs through more shelter rooms, housing, and custom supports.



CLIENT SERVICE

Ensure trauma-informed, survivor-centered programming, accessible for all.



STRONG VOICE

Strengthen partnerships, advocacy, and education for system-wide change.



RESILIENCE

Grow funding, enhance staff wellness, and build a sustainable organization.

FROM STRATEGY TO IMPACT

Throughout this report, you'll see how these priorities are coming to life through our programs, partnerships, investments and the experiences of the women and children we serve.

This report tells the story of that progress — and of the hope we continue to build together.

BOARD OF *Directors*



Irene Santos
Board Chair

Michelle Small
Vice Chair

David Vandenberg
Secretary

Paul MacDiarmid
Treasurer

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Director

Ritu Janveja
Director

Sukkie Steve-Fagbemi
Director

Lori Kelly
Director

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Director

Pam Damoff
Director

Mike Herenberg
Director



Programs, Services & Impact

Every woman who connects with Halton Women's Place comes to us with different needs and circumstances. Some need immediate safety. Others need someone to talk to, information about their options, or support navigating housing, family court, child welfare and the practical challenges of rebuilding after violence.

Our core services include **Emergency Safe Shelter, Community Outreach Services, and our 24-Hour Crisis Information & Support Line**, ensuring women can access support in the way that best meets their needs — whether they need a safe place to stay, ongoing support in the community, or immediate information and support at any time of day.

This year, new investments and partnerships allowed us to build on these core services, address longstanding gaps and expand access in meaningful ways



103

women received
safe shelter

82

children found
safety alongside
their mothers



1167

crisis line calls



104

online chats

Reporting period ·
April 1, 2025 – March
31, 2026

EMERGENCY SAFE SHELTER

Safety When It Is Needed Most

For women experiencing violence, reaching out for support can be the first step toward safety. Our **24-Hour Crisis Information & Support Line** ensures someone is available at any time to listen, provide information, help women understand their options and connect them with HWP services and other community supports.

For women and children who need a safe place to stay, our emergency shelters provide **24/7 safety and support**. From the moment a family arrives, immediate basic needs are met, including nutritious meals, clothing, toiletries, and other essentials. Women receive individualized safety planning, housing and transitional support, advocacy and connections to community resources. Children and youth are also supported throughout their stay through dedicated **Child and Youth Programming**, providing age-appropriate activities, individual support and opportunities for connection and play while helping children navigate the impacts of violence and the transition into shelter.



INVESTING IN SAFETY & DIGNITY

In October 2025, HWP completed an approximately **\$1.2** million renovation of our Burlington shelter, one of the most significant investments in our physical spaces in recent years. This project reflects our ongoing commitment to ensuring that the spaces where women and children seek safety are welcoming, accessible and designed with their needs in mind.

The renovation transformed the shelter environment. Private washrooms provide women and families with greater privacy and dignity, while windows that open bring fresh air into individual rooms. Enhanced security measures strengthen safety throughout the building, and accessibility improvements

help ensure our services can better meet the needs of all women and children. The project also incorporated important infection prevention and control improvements, informed by what we learned through the pandemic and our experience operating congregate shelter environments.

These changes matter. Women and children often arrive at HWP during one of the most difficult and uncertain periods of their lives. The physical environment they enter should reinforce the very things our services are intended to provide — safety, dignity, privacy, choice and a sense of welcome. This investment has created a shelter environment that better reflects those values and the quality of care we want every woman and child to experience at HWP.





SUPPORTING HEALTH, HEALING & WELLBEING

Safety is more than a secure place to stay. Supporting women and children in shelter also means creating opportunities for recovery, connection and wellbeing.

With **\$263,862** in funding over two years through the Halton Region Community Investment Fund, HWP is strengthening health and wellness supports in our Burlington and Milton shelters. This includes nutrition-focused programming, art and music therapy, yoga, and peer support through SAFE (Survivor Advocates for Empowerment), a survivor-led group that brings lived experience into supporting and empowering other women. The funding will also provide increased overnight staffing, strengthening safety and support for women and children throughout their stay.

With thanks to Halton Region for investing in the health and wellbeing of women and children staying in our shelters.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH SERVICES

Support Beyond Our Shelter Walls

Not every woman experiencing violence will enter a shelter. Our Community Outreach team works with women across Halton, providing support in the community as they navigate safety, housing, family court, child welfare and the practical challenges of rebuilding after violence.

Through Transitional Housing & Support, women receive help navigating housing and the financial and practical barriers that can make moving forward difficult. Bridging Families, delivered in partnership with Halton Children's Aid Society, provides specialized support to women and families involved with both the violence against women and child welfare systems. Our Family Court Support team helps women understand and navigate the family court process, prepare for court, and connect with legal and community resources.



213

women accessed transitional housing and support services

112

women and

139

children supported through Bridging Families



85

women and

95

children supported through Family Court Support

CLIENT VOICE:

"My biggest cheerleaders were definitely my court support workers to remind myself of my capabilities to do this and take ownership of my life and decide what is best for me and my children."



Highlights & New Initiatives

This year was about more than delivering our existing programs and services. New investments and partnerships allowed HWP to address gaps we have seen for years — bringing specialized services closer to women in North Halton, increasing access to family court support, strengthening pathways to housing and adding specialized mental health support.

BRINGING SUPPORT CLOSER TO WOMEN IN NORTH HALTON

For women living in North Halton, distance, transportation and fewer local services can create additional barriers to accessing specialized violence against women supports.

With a **\$268,400**, three-year Grow Grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, HWP has expanded programs and services into rural and remote communities in North Halton. This investment supports a dedicated Rural and Remote Worker, community-based outreach and transportation assistance, helping women access support closer to where they live.

A **\$250,000**, two-year grant from the Law Foundation of Ontario is further strengthening this work by allowing HWP to dedicate Family Court Support specifically to women in North Halton, while also increasing access to workshops and programming in the community. Together, these supports are helping women navigate the family

court system while also increasing access to information, education and specialized violence against women services closer to home.

Our growing presence in North Halton has been further strengthened through our partnership with Links2Care, where HWP now has satellite office space in Georgetown. This gives women another place within their own community to connect directly with HWP staff and access specialized support.

Together, these investments and partnerships are helping HWP reduce barriers, increase local access and build a stronger network of support for women across North Halton.

With thanks to the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Law Foundation of Ontario for investing in greater access to specialized violence against women services, and to Links2Care for partnering with us to bring these supports closer to women in their community.



Halton Women's Place expanding its presence in Georgetown is an important step for our community. Having support available closer to home reduces barriers for women and families who may already be facing incredibly difficult circumstances. It also strengthens awareness in our community that help is here, locally, when it is needed. We are very fortunate to have Halton Women's Place investing in a stronger presence in our community."

**MELANIE FRAZER, PRESIDENT & CEO,
HALTON HILLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**





HAVEN TO HOME

Finding safety is critical, but rebuilding after violence often requires much more than finding a place to live. Stable housing, financial security, employment and support to recover from trauma can all play a role in helping women and their children build a life beyond violence.

With an investment of **\$876,693** over two and a half years from the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, HWP is delivering Haven to Home in partnership with Home Suite Hope. The initiative provides individualized support that can include housing and rent assistance, employment and job-readiness support, skill development and connections to community resources.

Over the life of the initiative, 33 families will be supported, with the goal of helping women move beyond immediate safety toward greater housing stability, financial independence and a more secure future for themselves and their children.

Recognizing that rebuilding also means addressing the impacts of trauma, an additional **\$99,840** investment through the Halton Region Community Investment Fund has allowed HWP to add a Registered Psychotherapist to the initiative, providing trauma-focused, culturally responsive mental health treatment for survivors and their children.

Together, these supports address both the practical and emotional barriers to moving forward — helping women not only find housing, but build the stability, skills and supports needed to sustain it.

With thanks to the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services and Halton Region for investing in this work, and to Home Suite Hope for their continued partnership in helping women and families build safer, more stable futures.

CLIENT VOICES:

"Haven 2 Home gave me more than an apartment—it gave me a fresh start. For the first time in a long time, I could picture a safe and happy future for myself and my children. I finally felt like we had a place to call home."

"Haven 2 Home gave me the chance to move from simply surviving to finally building a life for me and my children. Having a safe place of our own gave me the stability and confidence to believe that we could have a better future."

22
women supported

APPROXIMATELY
\$90,000

invested in housing and
rent stabilization

78%
of funds distributed addressed
housing-related needs

CLIENT VOICE:

***"Without the support of
Halton Women's Place
the journey of survivors
would not just be a
lonely one, but often a
fatal one for the women
and children involved."***



**REMOVING THE FINAL BARRIERS TO
MOVING FORWARD**

Bridge to Hope Fund

Sometimes a woman is ready to take the next step, but one financial barrier stands in the way.

The Bridge to Hope Fund provides one-time financial assistance when other government or community funding is not available, often at a critical point when a woman is moving from shelter into independent housing. It is designed to be exactly what its name suggests — a bridge between immediate need and longer-term stability.

This year, 22 women received support through the fund. The greatest need has been housing: approximately **\$90,000**, or 78% of funds distributed, helped women with rent deposits, arrears and short-term rental assistance — support that can determine whether a woman is able to secure a home she has found.

Sometimes the final barrier isn't another program or service. **It's a rent deposit. A bed. Arrears resulting from financial abuse.** The cost of moving into a new home. Bridge to Hope gives HWP the flexibility to respond to what a woman actually needs at a critical moment — removing barriers that might otherwise stand between her and a safe, stable future.

With thanks to the donors and community members who made Bridge to Hope possible. Your generosity allows HWP to respond when other funding isn't available and remove the practical barriers that can stand between a woman and her next step.



INVESTING IN OUR TEAM

Building a Sustainable Approach to Staff Wellbeing

Supporting women and children experiencing violence requires knowledgeable and compassionate staff. It also requires an organization that recognizes the impact this work can have on the people providing that support.

With a **\$96,800** Seed Grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, HWP partnered with the TEND Academy, an organization specializing in workplace wellbeing, compassion fatigue and supporting professionals working in high-stress and trauma-exposed environments.

We knew compassion fatigue could not be addressed through a single workshop or training session. Our work with TEND began with an organizational assessment to better understand our strengths, challenges, and opportunities. Staff from across HWP then helped identify priorities and develop an action plan that is now being implemented throughout the organization.

That plan has included more intensive training for eight staff in mutual debriefing and comprehensive trauma-informed practice, along with four staff completing train-the-trainer education in compassion fatigue. More importantly, that knowledge is now being brought back into HWP so it can benefit the broader team.

We are developing a peer-based mutual debriefing model to give staff structured support following difficult work, introducing regular in-house compassion fatigue education, and

creating opportunities for staff with more extensive trauma-informed training to share their learning across the organization.

This work is about much more than training. It is about building a sustainable approach to staff wellbeing — one where the knowledge, tools and supports remain within HWP and continue to grow long after the initial training is complete.

With thanks to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for investing not only in the work we do, but in the people who do it.

STAFF VOICE

Participating in the TEND peer support training provided me with practical tools and greater confidence in supporting both myself and my colleagues. In work that can be emotionally demanding and complex, having the skills to recognize stress, provide meaningful peer support, and prioritize staff wellbeing is invaluable. The training reinforced the importance of supporting one another as we sustain ourselves and the quality of support we provide to others.

Made Possible Together

Our work at Halton Women's Place is only possible because of the many people and organizations who share our belief that every woman and child deserves to live free from violence.

We are deeply grateful to our government funders, foundations, community partners, donors and supporters. Your investment allows us to provide safe shelter and essential supports, strengthen our programs, respond to changing needs and reach more women and families across Halton.

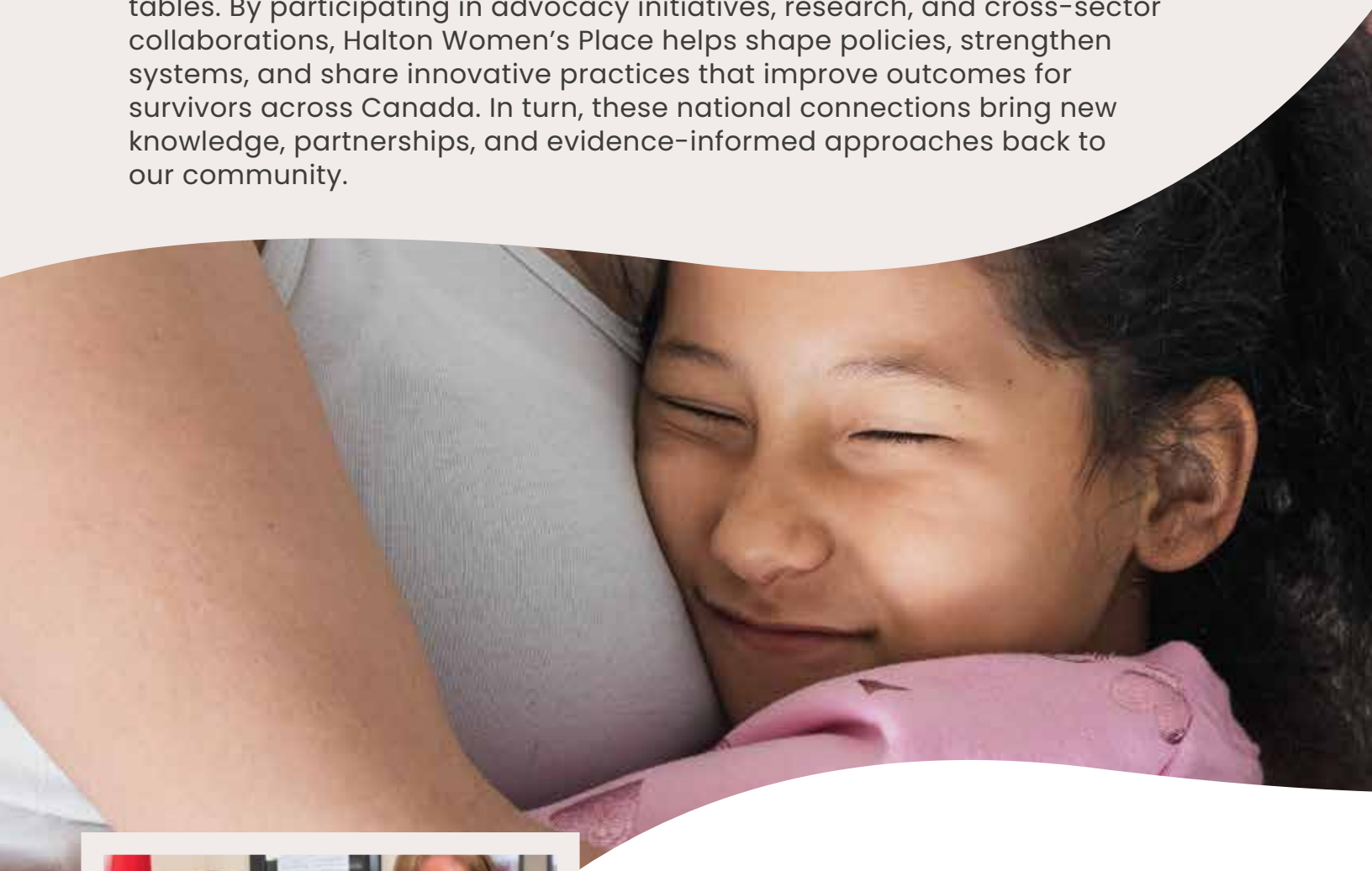
Your support makes a real difference in the lives of women and children across Halton and helps ensure we can continue to be there when they need us most.



Advocacy and Community Engagement

DRIVING CHANGE BEYOND OUR DOORS

While our primary focus remains supporting women and children in Halton, lasting change also requires strong voices at provincial and national tables. By participating in advocacy initiatives, research, and cross-sector collaborations, Halton Women's Place helps shape policies, strengthen systems, and share innovative practices that improve outcomes for survivors across Canada. In turn, these national connections bring new knowledge, partnerships, and evidence-informed approaches back to our community.



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ACT (BILL C-223):

Director, Client Services Sarah Byrne joined Women's Shelters Canada, survivors, and families in Ottawa to support Bill C-223, advocating for stronger family court responses to post-separation violence and ensuring the experiences of frontline organizations informed federal discussions.



KNOWLEDGE HUB CONFERENCE

Director, Client Services Sarah Byrne presented early impact findings from our donor-funded Bridge to Hope Program through a poster presentation, sharing innovative approaches to helping women transition from shelter to independent living and contributing to national learning across the gender-based violence sector.

CANADIAN NETWORK OF CANADIAN NETWORK OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE HUBS:

Halton Women's Place participated in the launch of the Canadian Network of Gender-Based Violence Hubs, reinforcing our commitment to integrated, survivor-centred responses and highlighting the collaborative work of the Halton 360 Hub as a model for coordinated community support.

Our partnership with the Halton Regional Police Services

HALTON REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE (HRPS)

HWP continues to maintain a strong partnership with Halton Regional Police Service. One of our great partnerships with HRPS includes regular visits from Constable Burnell, who meets with clients, helping build trust and increase their sense of safety when interacting with police. This ongoing collaboration has been a valuable support for the women we serve.



HALTON REGIONAL POLICE SERVICES BY THE NUMBERS

4,054
IPV calls

895
IPV arrests

1,557
IPV charges





LEARN TO LOVE

The Learn to Love team is committed to offering relevant, up-to-date presentations that reflect the current challenges, social trends, and cultural influences impacting youth across Halton. This approach allows us to meet young people where they are, providing educational content they can directly apply to their everyday lives.

In support of this commitment, we have continued to expand and enhance our prevention education offerings. We updated several existing presentations, developed a new Teen Dating Violence presentation for our Learn to Love On Tour initiative, and created two new presentations addressing emerging issues impacting youth, including cyberbullying and the pressures associated with online trends and vaping.

We also developed 19 new out-of-school, activity-based programs that are being delivered in libraries, summer camps, and drop-in centres across Halton's five communities: Burlington, Oakville, Milton, Acton, and Georgetown. These programs allow us to continue providing free, accessible violence prevention education to children and youth throughout Halton, ensuring they have opportunities to build knowledge, confidence, and healthy relationship skills year-round.

This year, we continued to expand our public education efforts by creating more opportunities for adults, youth, and community partners to engage in meaningful conversations about gender-based violence

prevention, trauma-informed care, healthy relationships, and allyship.

To support adult learning and build community capacity, we developed three new presentations: Domestic Violence and Trauma-Informed Care, Practicing Trauma-Informed Care, and Navigating Cyber Safety. Since launching our adult education programming in March, we have reached 57 adult participants, including final-semester students in Conestoga College's Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addiction Graduate Certificate program, as well as staff at Halton Hills Youth Group Drop-In Centres in Georgetown and Acton.

Our commitment to engaging men and boys in violence prevention also continued to grow. We strengthened our Male Advisory Committee by refining its mission and beginning the development of new initiatives designed to increase male allyship. We also trained seven new school-based coaches in Coaching Boys into Men (CBIM), an evidence-based program that engages young athletes in conversations about healthy relationships, respect, and preventing violence.



Through our school-based EngageMENT series, we delivered 44 sessions reaching more than 800 boys throughout Halton. These sessions provided young men with opportunities to explore healthy masculinity, take their mental health seriously, build relationships rooted in respect and equality, and recognize their role in creating safer communities.

Every conversation, presentation, and connection creates an opportunity for change. Through Learn to Love, we are investing in prevention by equipping youth, adults, and community partners with the knowledge and tools to recognize, challenge, and help prevent gender-based violence. masculinity, empowering them to take their mental health seriously, look out for one another, foster relationships grounded in respect and equality, and more.



**LEARN
TO LOVE**

LEARN TO LOVE BY THE NUMBERS

28,749

individuals reached

19

new out-of-school programs

1,170

presentations (+9.8%)

11

Learn to Love On Tour stops

800+

boys reached via EngageMENT

7

coaches trained in CBIM

Empowering boys across Halton to take their mental health seriously, look out for one another, and build relationships grounded in respect and equality.





Signature Events

VENETIAN BALL GALA

Halton Women's Place's annual gala brought together community leaders, partners, sponsors, donors, and advocates for an unforgettable evening centred on the theme *"Behind Every Mask Is a Story of Strength."* The Venetian Ball honoured the resilience of survivors while highlighting the community's vital role in supporting safety, healing, and recovery.

A moving Moment of Giving featured a survivor who shared how Halton Women's Place helped her find safety, restore hope, and rebuild her life. Her story powerfully demonstrated the lasting impact of compassionate, survivor-centred support.

Together, our community raised an incredible **\$390,723** to support women and children experiencing domestic violence. These funds help sustain critical services, including emergency shelter, crisis intervention, counselling, outreach services, and children's programming, providing survivors with the support and resources they need to build safe and independent futures.



\$390,723
total raised

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY LUNCHEON

Halton Women's Place welcomed approximately 200 community members, partners, and advocates to its annual International Women's Day Luncheon, held under the theme *"Give to Gain."* The event celebrated the power of collective action in advancing safety, equity, and opportunity for women and children.

Keynote speaker Fallon Farinacci inspired attendees to lead with courage, strengthen allyship, and remain committed to building stronger communities. Her message reinforced the importance of advocacy, shared responsibility, and the role each person plays in creating meaningful change.

As one of Halton Women's Place's signature annual events, the luncheon continues to bring people together to champion equity, amplify important conversations, and inspire action toward a future where women and children can thrive.



HOPE IN EVERY STEP WALK

In 2025, Hope in Every Step moved to Spencer Smith Park, bringing together approximately 450 participants to launch Woman Abuse Prevention Month and demonstrate the community's commitment to raising awareness and preventing gender-based violence. The event continued to grow in participation and impact, with sports teams and male allies joining to raise awareness and reinforce the shared responsibility of prevention.

Keynote speaker Fartumo Kusow shared the heartbreaking story of losing her daughter to intimate partner violence, delivering a powerful call to action for prevention and lasting change. Following her address, male allies united in the "Not on My Watch" pledge, reaffirming their commitment to challenging violence and building a culture of respect.

Together, participants raised **\$76,292**, including a record **\$41,000** through grassroots pledges, demonstrating the strength of community engagement and collective action. The continued growth of the Hope in Every Step Walk demonstrates the power of community action in raising awareness, inspiring prevention, and standing alongside survivors.



\$76,292
total raised



GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 32nd Annual Golf Tournament brought together golfers, sponsors, volunteers, and community supporters for a day of connection, camaraderie, and shared purpose in support of Halton Women's Place. The event raised more than **\$70,000** to help provide critical services for women and children experiencing violence, reflecting the generosity of our dedicated supporters.

Beyond the funds raised, the tournament continues to strengthen relationships with community partners and supporters who play an important role in advancing our mission and helping ensure survivors have access to the services and resources they need.



\$70,000
total raised



Community Champions

OUR PARTNERS IN MAKING THIS WORK POSSIBLE

Like many not-for-profit organizations, we rely on our donors and supporters to help raise awareness and reach our fundraising goals, so we can support women and children who reach out for help. They truly are our partners in making this work possible, and we are so grateful to each one of them!

We see the many ways our community champions show up for our clients. They help amplify our mission and are passionate advocates for safety, security, and dignity.

Our community champions also show support through direct monetary giving — critical funds that help us support women and children beyond safe shelter.

FIONNA GOSSLING

Fionna's long time generosity has become such an important part of the Halton Women's Place story.

Fionna started something 16 years ago that was wonderfully simple: she invited friends to dinner.

What began as a gathering around a table became so much more. Year after year, friends came back, new friends joined, and that dinner became a place for connection, advocacy, and raising much-needed funds for women and children experiencing violence.

At Fionna's most recent event in September 2025, she raised nearly **\$21,000**. And when you look at the impact over 15 years, the total is an extraordinary **\$183,500**.

But Fionna, what means just as much to us is the way you continue to bring people into this work. You don't simply write a cheque—you open your home, you start conversations, you educate your friends, and you give people a reason to care about this issue.

Fionna, thank you for your incredible generosity, your advocacy, and for showing us that sometimes, meaningful change really can begin around a dinner table.

*Who knew a
dinner party with
friends could
make a huge
impact?*

\$183,500
raised over 15 years



ANN MANN AND THE KEAN FOUNDATION

Ann Mann wanted the first gift from her new foundation to support the women and children staying at Halton Women's Place. In 2025, when her family established The Kean Foundation, they chose to sponsor not one, not two, but FOUR bedrooms in our Milton shelter.

Creating a foundation had long been a dream for Ann and her husband. After his sudden passing, Ann and her daughters—Emily, Kirsten, and Natalie—decided to bring that dream to life sooner rather than later.

Ann's commitment to Halton Women's Place extends far beyond financial support. She serves on our Gala Fundraising Committee and our North Halton Advisory Committee, and is a generous advocate for our mission in countless other ways. Her daughters are also enthusiastic supporters who have become actively involved with the agency.

We are incredibly grateful to Ann, her daughters, and The Kean Foundation for their many contributions. Their impact goes beyond sponsorships and donations---they participate in our events, champion our cause, and help raise vital awareness throughout North Halton so that more women and children can access the support and services they need.



PINEGLEN HOMES

T'was the week before Christmas and a special delivery came to Halton Women's Place! Pineglen Homes took it upon themselves to ask their vendors and suppliers to support their donation to our organization. Multiple trucks arrived and more than 10 of their employees and leadership unloaded an incredible amount of our most needed items, including twin sheets and comforters, small appliances, peanut free lunches and snacks, pots, pans, curtains and clothing! To say we were all overwhelmed and grateful would be an understatement. This generous donation continues to be the topic of conversation for everyone here at HWP!





DONOR RECOGNITION

To commemorate Volunteer Appreciation Week, we invited our major donors and volunteers to a special evening in their honour. Our second Donor Appreciation Event was held at the Burlington Golf and Country Club and close to 65 donors and volunteers joined us. Staff and the board thanked them for their incredible impact that their support has had on the women and children who use our services. We were fortunate to hear from a survivor, Lili, who shared her story so eloquently and who was able to directly thank our donors for their impact on lives like hers and her son.



HOLIDAY CAMPAIGN

The holiday season can be extra tough for our clients, but year after year our community comes through with incredible support — sponsoring our families with gift cards and, this year, something extra: new pjs!

For many families rebuilding their lives, the holidays can be a difficult reminder of financial hardship, isolation, and the challenges they've overcome. But our community continues to come through, and these donations and acts of kindness help create a sense of hope, belonging, and stability during a time that should be filled with joy. This support eases financial pressures and reassures survivors that they are not alone — that their community cares about their well-being.

**WITH YOUR SUPPORT IN
2025, WE SPONSORED...**

140 families





Volunteer program

THE HEART BEHIND THE WORK

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Debbie Green-Merrick

Some volunteers quietly make a difference by simply showing up—time and time again. Debbie Green-Merrick is one of those people.

Since 2020, Debbie has been a familiar and welcome presence at Halton Women's Place. From our signature fundraising events to community initiatives like the Unfinished Nationals Car Show, she's always there with a smile, ready to do whatever needs to be done. Whether she's organizing supplies, assembling swag bags, picking up donations, preparing for an event, or taking on a brand-new task, Debbie approaches every opportunity with enthusiasm, curiosity, and an unwavering commitment to helping others.

On behalf of everyone at Halton Women's Place, thank you, Debbie, for your generosity of spirit and for all you do. We are honoured to celebrate you and the difference you continue to make.

75
active volunteers
(10 in shelter, 65 events)

1,376
volunteer hours
(approx.)



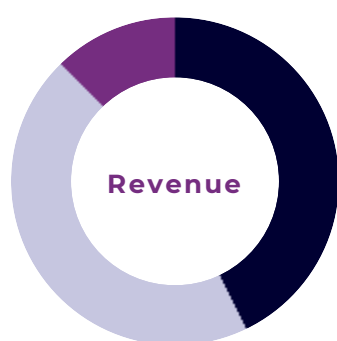
Your Gifts in Action

Thank you for entrusting us with your generous gifts. This is an overview of where our funding is generated and how it serves the women and children we support.

Reporting period · April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026

Operational Funding Sources

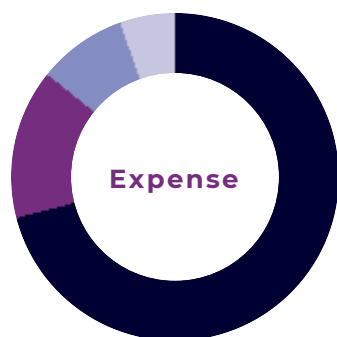
\$6,507,165



43%	Provincial Funding	\$2,786,988
45%	Grants & Fundraising	\$2,924,172
12%	Other Income	\$796,006

Operational Expenses

\$6,034,662



71%	Direct Services to Clients	\$4,280,579
15%	Fundraising	\$890,766
9%	Administration	\$531,796
5%	Public Education	\$331,521



Figures for the year ended March 31, 2026. Our complete audited financial statements are available at haltonwomensplace.com, or by request at info@haltonwomensplace.com



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Ministry of Children, Community and
Social Services
Ontario Trillium Foundation
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Burlington Foundation
Oakville Community Foundation



*To our donors, volunteers,
funders, community
partners, and supporters —
thank you. Your belief in this
work makes safety, healing,
and hope possible.*



We are a proud accredited
organization with Imagine Canada

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2026 Annual Report

The Hope We Build Together

Stronger Communities. Safer Futures



Halton Women's Place
Healthy Relationships • Healthy Communities

2211 Brant Street, #20060
Burlington, ON L7P 0A4
Administration: 905-332-1200
info@haltonwomensplace.com
haltonwomensplace.com

 *24-Hour Crisis, Information & Support Line*

South: 905-332-7892

North: 905-878-8555

Online chat: haltonwomensplace.com/chat