



Bernadette McCann House Inc.

Abuse Happens. It Doesn't Have To. • La violence existe, mais elle n'est pas acceptable!

2017 Newsletter • Bulletin 2017

Renfrew County Stands Up Against Violence

Bernadette McCann House encourages the community to participate in the Stand Up Against Violence photo campaign challenge. Community members can have their photo taken by an agency representative and pictures have appeared on the website, Facebook and in several newspapers. In addition, individuals and groups have made their own signs and sent in their “selfies” to the agency.

So far, over 500 people from Arnprior, Renfrew, Pembroke, Petawawa, Chalk River and Deep River have participated. Groups have included families, sports clubs, businesses, non-profits, health professionals and churches. Our goal is to reach 1,000 people photographed.

“We encourage everyone in Renfrew County to take part,” says Erin Norris, Volunteer/Public Education Coordinator at Bernadette McCann House. “If you believe violence is not acceptable in our community, please stand up.”

Stand Up Against Violence pictures may be forwarded to norrise@wsssbmh.org



Capacity Building Project Report

In 2016, BMH submitted a Capacity Building Proposal to the Ministry of Community and Social Services in order to look more closely at services and how they could begin to measure whether what the organization is doing is enhancing their mandate. The concept involved engaging community leaders who were knowledgeable about Violence Against Women, and willing to share their understanding and learning with regards to the prevention of violence in our community.

The mandate of this proposal was to develop a panel of experts from different sectors to identify gaps in services, areas to be developed, possible measurements of service outcomes, partnerships, and projects to be considered that would enhance services and create a vision of decreased violence against women and families in Renfrew County.

The members of the expert panel represented a cross-section of the community and contributed their expertise in the areas of social

services, the criminal justice system, law enforcement, mental health community, education, developmental services, politics, and business.

This project was an imperative step in the journey towards reducing violence, not only against women, but assisting all individuals, to gain a clearer understanding of the issues and challenges within our county. Working in isolation, operating from a silo perspective, and a reluctance to think outside the box have not been successful. When we come together as a complete community response, we can address violence in our community.

The process took a “WHOLE” approach to the project, “Whole of Government”, “Whole of County and Community”. This approach is intended to bring down the silos between government ministries and to assist local agencies to collaborate more effectively to ensure the client receives as safe and seamless services as possible.

Upon completion of this project, recommendations were discussed with the local area office and are now being forwarded to the East Regional Area Office. **Special thanks to Beth Ethier, Bernie Wren, Terry Gibeau, Jason Nicol, Susan Edwards and Ann Hysert for their genuine commitment and support in making this Capacity Funding Project a REALITY.**

How to Contact Us

Anytime: 613-732-3131 or 1-800-267-4930

Administration & Outreach: Monday to Friday,

8:30 am–4:30 pm: 613-732-7776, www.wsssbmh.org

Coordonnées

24 heures sur 24: 613-732-3131 ou 1-800-267-4930

L'administration et soutien communautaire: lundi au

vendredi 8h30 à 16h30: 613-732-7776, www.wsssbmh.org

**Bernadette McCann House
For Women Inc.**



Chair's Report

Bernadette McCann House has marked 2016 with its ongoing commitment to provide safety, support and education to the women and children of Renfrew County who experience abuse and to work for change that will end abuse. To that end, additional projects were embarked upon or re-assessment of services executed.

A five-member panel was asked to look at outcomes for clients who access services of BMH. Their meetings included presentations from clients, management of BMH, other service providers, a Journey Mapping Consultant, executive directors and the Ministry. The recommendations will be presented to the Board of Directors in early 2017.

Service providers were included in the consultation process regarding Rural Realities, where mapping of domestic violence services was identified. It was determined that Journey Mapping, *although new to the sector*, would be a very good approach to identifying gaps in the system. Interviews were completed with seven women who have experienced or are experiencing domestic violence in Renfrew County. Results of the Journey Mapping project are expected in early 2017. It is anticipated that once the gaps have been identified, although only with results from seven clients, the agency can begin to gather service providers together in order to better meet the needs of clients who access our services.

BMH was the first Women's Shelter & Support Services organization in Canada to be accredited. To maintain this accreditation, BMH

is required to undergo the accreditation process every four years. In November 2016, Focus Accreditation interviewed many clients, board, management, staff and service providers. I am pleased and proud to report that FOCUS has approved BMH accreditation for the next four years. This is a direct reflection of the ongoing commitment of BMH staff who seek opportunities for improvement in their goal of better serving the women and children of our county.

This year, BMH launched the "Stand Up Against Violence" Campaign. Supporters of this campaign agree to have their picture taken, holding the sign(s), which will be posted on the BMH website and Facebook, or in local papers. It is encouraging to see many community groups, organizations, businesses and individuals participating in this campaign.

In Canada alone, on any day, more than 3,000 women along with their 2,500 children are seeking emergency shelter to escape domestic violence. Public awareness and education are vital to working towards change that will end abuse.

I would like to say thank you to all of our partners, volunteers, and contributors in our continued goal of bringing attention to and providing safety for the women and children of our community.



Sincerely,
Betty Brisson
Board Chair

Executive Director's Report

Within our Ministry, a number of new initiatives were implemented in 2016–2017. BMH participated in several of these initiatives, including both the Rural Realities and Phase Two Funding sources. These funds involved collaboration with service users, resource people and service providers. Special thanks to all those who engaged in these funding opportunities and contributed to their success!

In the coming months, Bernadette McCann House will be moving forward in new areas of services, involving partnerships with numerous service providers, in an effort to meet the needs of those living in Renfrew County who experience abuse. During the past few years, there has been a growing willingness on the part of the agency to work with both women and men, as demonstrated through the Family Court Program, and our partnership in providing the Caring Dads Program. The organization recognizes the need for strategies and approaches that would focus on the "Whole of Renfrew County".

We need to pay particular attention to building support of all the service levels, to sustain and maintain change that focuses on a core belief in Healthier Families means Healthier Communities.

A special thanks to the people of Renfrew County who continue to contribute clothes, food and furniture, as well as financial donations to assist those who access our services. We cannot say **THANK YOU** enough times. Your donations go to clients directly when they need it most. **YOU are making a difference in the lives of others.**

On a personal note, I would like to acknowledge the work of Nancy Deschambault who retired earlier this year. Nancy was extremely caring and compassionate about her work with the agency. She took risks in breaking new ground for the agency. We will miss her wisdom and sense of humour.

Lastly, thank you to the Board, Staff and Volunteers. Your insight and perseverance to help others has not gone unnoticed. Every day, I am in awe of the work that you do. You are a truly amazing group to work with. Your kindness is demonstrated every day in your interactions with others. **We are very fortunate that you choose to spend your time with Bernadette McCann House.**



Sincerely,
Leigh Sweeney
Executive Director



Bilingual Services

Bernadette McCann House currently employs one full- and one part-time bilingual staff. Marielle Lair is the agency's full-time Youth Outreach and Family Court Support Caseworker. Marielle's work with youth can be provided onsite at the agency office in Pembroke or within area schools. Erin Norris is the agency's Volunteer/Public Education Coordinator. Erin works on a part-time basis recruiting and supporting volunteers, as well as providing information about the agency to the community at large. Bernadette McCann House strives to serve all clients in the language of their choice either onsite or through referrals to other partners.

To better serve the community, Bernadette McCann House is currently updating the agency's website in both French and English. An attractive, accessible and user-friendly website is expected to be launched in spring 2017.

Services bilingues

La maison de Bernadette McCann House compte actuellement deux employées bilingues, une à temps plein et une autre à temps partiel. Marielle Lair travaille à temps plein à l'organisme, en tant que travailleuse en service social individualisé en matière de sensibilisation des jeunes et de soutien juridique aux familles. Marielle peut offrir ses services aux jeunes sur place, au bureau de l'organisme à Pembroke ou dans les écoles de la région. Erin Norris est la coordonnatrice des bénévoles et à l'éducation du public au sein de l'organisme. Erin travaille à temps partiel; elle est chargée du recrutement et de la formation des bénévoles ainsi que de la communication des renseignements sur l'organisme à l'ensemble de la collectivité. La maison Bernadette McCann House cherche à servir tous les clients dans la langue de leur choix, soit sur place, ou en les référant à d'autres partenaires.

Afin de mieux servir la communauté, la maison Bernadette McCann House met actuellement à jour le site Web de l'organisme, et ce en dans les deux langues. Un site Web attrayant, accessible et convivial devrait être lancé au printemps 2017.

Rural Realities Funding

The original objectives of the Rural Realities funding were to support sustainable initiatives to mitigate the broad and unique challenges of Violence Against Women service delivery in rural and remote communities. In the spring of 2016, Bernadette McCann House (BMH) submitted a proposal and was successful in receiving funds in the amount of \$8,000.

In conjunction with our community partners, Bernadette McCann House identified a need for mapping current services existing within Renfrew County. The Journey Mapping Process was chosen by the organization as a new and unique way of mapping service provision, primarily due to the client's perspective being captured in the results. The Journey Mapping Process provided a starting point for how clients viewed the services they received, and identified to service providers the gaps that exist in services from the client's perspective.

By engaging in this process, there is potential for sharing of best practices amongst service providers. There is also an opportunity for service providers to become more aware of what services the service users/clients see as lacking or needing improvement, or identify what is working for them.

Bernadette McCann House is very interested in future collaboration with partners willing to share and work together. The agency intends to submit future proposals that identify this type of service provider collaboration to benefit those who are experiencing domestic violence.

Results of the Rural Realities and Journey Mapping Project are available on the BMH website.



Bernadette McCann House for Women Inc. Statistics for April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016

Residential Services

Number of Women Admitted	47
Number of Children Admitted	26
Number of Day Assessments	74
Number of Crisis Calls	860

Transitional Services

Number of Women Served	92
------------------------	----

Outreach Services

Number of Women Served	287
Number of Youth Served	63
Number of Children Served	96
Number of Day Assessments	24
Number of New Referrals	256

Volunteer Services

Number of Volunteer Hours	2,517
---------------------------	-------

2017 Events

April 7: Accreditation Celebration from 3:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m. Skating, food and fun at the Silver Dart Arena in Petawawa. Free!

April 23–29: National Volunteer Week! Check out <https://volunteer.ca/nvw2017> to see how you can celebrate volunteers.

April 28–30: Petawawa Showcase—stop by our booth at the Petawawa Civic Centre.

May 10: Visit us at the 15th Annual Options Skilled Trades Career Fair, Pembroke Memorial Centre, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

June 13: AGM, 7:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

October: Week Without Violence Campaign. Schools welcome to book a presentation. Call 613-732-7776 to book.

November: Woman Abuse Prevention Month. Join the *Wrapped in Courage* Campaign.

December 6: Join us on the *National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women* at our Annual December 6th Vigil, Wesley United Church, 6 p.m.

Événements 2017

Le 7 avril : Célébration de l'accréditation de 3h – 17h30. Patinage, nourriture et amusement à l'aréna Silver Dart à Petawawa. Gratuit !

Le 23–29 avril : La semaine nationale des bénévoles! Visitez benevoles.ca/sab2017 pour voir comment vous pouvez célébrer vos bénévoles!

Le 28–30 avril : Showcase à Petawawa—venez visiter notre baraque au Petawawa Civic Centre.

Le 10 mai : Visitez-nous au 15^{ème} Options Skilled Trades Career Fair, Pembroke Memorial Centre, de 9h00 à 14h00.

Le 13 juin : Assemblée générale annuelle, 19h00 au Knights of Columbus Hall.

Octobre : La semaine sans violence. Les écoles sont bienvenues de nous inviter faire une présentation. 613-732-7776

Novembre : Le mois de la prévention de la violence contre les femmes ; porter des foulards violets « *Wrapped in Courage* ».

Le 6 décembre : Venez nous rejoindre pour la vielle du 6 décembre, Église Wesley United, 18h00.

Mission Statement

The Mission of Bernadette McCann House for Women Inc. is to provide safety, support and education to women, children and those who experience abuse, and to work for change that will end abuse.

Statement of Philosophy

- Accountability and respect for diversity are fundamental guiding principles of Bernadette McCann house for Women Inc.
- To live free of fear, oppression and any form of abuse is a basic human right.
- Every person should be free to make their own choices regarding the direction of their lives.
- All people, including children affected by abuse, should be free to speak and be heard, and have their individual needs acknowledged.
- Abusers must accept accountability for the short- and long-term effect their abuse has on others.

Déclaration de la mission

La déclaration de la mission de la maison Bernadette McCann est d'offrir des services de sécurité, de soutien et d'éducation aux femmes, aux enfants et d'autres qui expérimentent des mauvais traitements, et de mettre en œuvre des changements qui prendrait la fin à la maltraitance.

Énoncé de philosophie

- Le respect de la diversité est fondamentale chez la maison Bernadette McCann.
- Tous les êtres humains ont le droit de vivre sans peur, libre de l'oppression et d'autres formes de la maltraitance.
- Tous les êtres humains doivent être libre de faire ses propres choix concernant l'orientation de sa vie.
- Tous les êtres humains, dont les enfants victimes de la maltraitance, doivent être libre de s'exprimer, de se faire entendre et de faire reconnaître ses besoins particuliers.
- Les bourreaux doivent assumer la responsabilité de leurs mauvais traitements et les effets à court et à long terme.

I support Bernadette McCann House for Women Inc.

Je soutien la maison Bernadette McCann House

P.O. BOX 244, PEMBROKE, ON K8A 6X3

A membership will entitle you or your organization/corporation to vote at our annual general meeting, provided the membership is purchased 90 days prior to the date of the annual general meeting. You will receive copies of any newsletter published throughout the year. Bernadette McCann House for Women receives 100% of its funding from the Ministry of Community & Social Services, and the Ministry of Children & Youth Services. / Un adhésion vous donnez droit de voter à l'assemblée générale annuelle, à condition que l'adhésion est acheter 90 jours avant la date de l'assemblée générale annuelle. Vous recevrez des lettres d'informations publiées pendant l'année. La maison Bernadette McCann House reçoit 100% de ses fonds de la ministère des services sociaux et communautaires et de la ministère des services à l'enfance et à la jeunesse.

Membership Application/ L'application d'adhésion Regular Membership or Renewal/L'adhésion régulier ou renouvellement.....\$5.00 ☐

Corporation or Organization/Société ou organisation.....\$100.00 ☐

☐ I do not wish to become a member at this time and I would like to make a donation in the amount of /Je ne désire pas devenir membre et je veux faire un don de \$_____

Name/Nom: _____ Address/Adresse: _____

Postal Code/Code postale: _____ Tel./Tél.: _____ E-mail: _____

Signature: _____