

Date

Caring Donor
123 Generous St.
Suite <3
Lovely, ON X0X 0X0

Dear <Salutation>,

The statistics are heartbreakingly grim.

This past year in Ontario, a woman was *killed* by her intimate partner every week.

Can you imagine the fear of being trapped in such a devastating cycle of violence?

Picture living in an unending nightmare – subjected to brutal beatings and degradation, constantly fearing for your children’s lives. The terror of losing your life at the hands of the very person who should love and care for you.

Sadly, for far too many women across our country, this nightmare is their daily reality. **What’s even more alarming is that violence against women has reached crisis levels nationwide.**

In the past seven years, incidents of intimate partner violence have risen persistently, with over 70 municipalities, including Toronto, declaring it an *epidemic*.

I know you agree with me that we can and must do better than this. Every woman in Canada deserves to live a life free from violence.

Mrs. Donor, thank you for being a lifeline for women in our community experiencing abuse. Your support helps victims break free from the cycle of violence and find solace and safety at Interval House.

You are transforming lives, enabling us to offer life-changing programs and services to hundreds of women and their children who seek refuge at Interval House every year. Will you renew your support with a gift of <Ask1> to ensure we can continue to be there for women in need?

On March 8, we marked International Women's Day, proudly aligning ourselves with a global movement that uplifts and celebrates women while shedding light on the discrimination and gender inequality still rampant worldwide.

For over 50 years, generous donors like you have been changing the lives of women escaping violence through your support of Interval House and our programs. Together, we have achieved remarkable strides and tangible change for women across our city and beyond.

While much has been accomplished, the need for shelter and specialized services for women facing violence remains *urgent*.

I can tell you that our shelter has never been fuller, especially with the housing crisis gripping our city and province. Women leaving abusive partners are confronted with limited options, often dealing with extreme financial hardships, struggling to keep a roof over their heads and feed their children on a single or no income.

The fear of not being able to make it on their own, or what might happen to them if their partner retaliates, forces many women to suffer in silence for years. **This, among other reasons, is why a staggering 90% of intimate partner violence goes *unreported*.**

For those who summon the courage to leave their abusers, Interval House becomes their first step toward a new life. These brave women, having endured hell and back, find safety, relief, and unending support behind our doors – *all thanks to your support*.

Will you give today to help more women and children who are fleeing from abuse?

Your gift extends far beyond providing shelter. It ensures access to counselling, education and support services, empowering women fleeing abuse to forge new paths for themselves and their children.

For example, your gift supports our **Building Economic Self-Sufficiency (BESS) program**, breaking down barriers to success by offering professional skill training, self-help workshops, financial and housing assistance, job opportunities, professional wardrobe options and so much more.

Through your support, we can sustain our **Financial Literacy Program**, educating women on understanding and managing their finances to achieve independence for themselves and their families.

Your support also fuels our pilot **Rent Subsidy Project**, breaking down barriers of housing insecurity and empowering survivors to pursue meaningful employment with a monthly subsidy of up to \$1,000.

Another critical program that would not be possible without your generosity is **Virtual Counselling Services**. With donor support, we were able to pilot this program and expand our free, one-on-one counselling services to more women across Ontario, including those outside of Toronto or facing commuting challenges.

All these vital programs *thrive* because of your generous support. Over half a century, donors like you have been the driving force behind the programs and services that help women who have left abusive relationships rebuild their lives.

You see, over the last 30 years, Interval House has faced a challenging reality – government funding has remained stagnant. Dependent solely on government support, we would not be able to offer survivors the essential services they desperately need beyond shelter.

You are the reason Interval House is able to provide holistic support to women experiencing abuse – caring for their physical, emotional and social well-being.

Since opening our doors in 1973, as the first shelter for abused women and children in Canada, we've made remarkable progress. In those early days, spousal abuse lurked in the shadows, shrouded in taboo and silence. Few dared to speak about it or acknowledge the ugly truth.

While much has changed since then, there's still a long road ahead.

The fact that *every six days* a woman dies at the hands of her intimate partner is a stark reminder that we must keep pushing forward.

Your support enables us to lead the way in the women's movement, finding innovative solutions to the constantly changing challenges and multiple barriers survivors of intimate partner violence face.

Besides physical and psychological pain, abused women also grapple with the emotional scars their children endure. **Studies show that children who witness violence in the home have *twice* the rate of psychiatric disorders as children from non-violent homes.**

With your support, we can provide specialized care for these kids through our Children's Program, offering unstructured playtime and arts and crafts activities, all under the watchful guidance of dedicated Youth Counsellors and Advocates. Set in a nurturing environment, the program helps kids just be kids and reclaim the innocence stolen by the trauma they've endured.

The needs of women and children facing intimate partner violence are many and complex.

From a safe place and a warm bed to sleep in at night to counselling, housing support, legal aid and employment services, your support has been instrumental in rebuilding lives shattered by intimate partner violence.

Mrs. Donor, will you please send a special gift to help women fleeing violence break free from the cycle of abuse?

With the demand for our services growing every year, we need your support now more than ever. You've extended your hand before and I hope we can count on you again.

Please, let us hear from you today.

With my sincere thanks,

Lesley Ackrill
Executive Co-Director
Interval House

P.S. **Intimate partner violence is on the rise.** Will you send a gift today to ensure Interval House can continue to be a place of safety and hope for women and children who don't have anywhere else to turn to for help? Thank you.