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Sandgate is an equity-seeking organization that strives to meet the needs of all abused women and their children in an inclusive and respectful manner

Please check out our new website @ www.sandgate.ca

Brochures & Website available in: English, Chinese, Spanish, Farsi, Urdu, Russian and Tamil.

MISSION STATEMENT

Sandgate Women's Shelter of York Region is dedicated to providing all women & their children shelter, support & information so they can take steps towards ending abuse in their lives.

SANDGATE WOMEN'S SHELTER OF YORK REGION INC. celebrated their 20 Year Anniversary on June 2, 2012 at De La Salle Park in Jackson's Point. The celebrations began with a Smudging Ceremony. There was a release of 20 butterflies by Mayor Robert Grossi and Chief Donna Big Canoe of Chippewas of Georgina Island and other spectators. There were other activities such as: attend henna, threading, face painting, signing the paint canvas, gift bags and a piñata for the children. There was plenty of food and a 20 year anniversary cake. Everyone truly enjoyed a drumming group with a combination of hand drums and percussion instrument from Rhythmic by Nature.



SANDGATE HAS SUPPORTED MORE THAN 20,000 WOMEN & CHILDREN OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS!!



Above: At the Chapel in Jackson's Point, ON.
From left: Sandgate staff, Executive Director—Jehan Chaudhry, Sandgate staff, Mayor Robert Grossi and President of the Board—Cathy Tustin

Left: One of the released butterflies drinking nectar

Sandgate would like to thank the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the United Way and the community at large for their ongoing support.

For enquiries, please call 1-800-661-8294 ext.113

In December, Home Depot Canada Utilized their Building Community grants to support the Richmond Hill Shelter. They built a recycling and garbage collection mechanism, installed much needed storage space in the washroom and laundry room. This has enabled the shelter to accept donations and make them available to the women and children accessing our services. We look forward to having them return to the shelter in the spring to enhance the backyard garden and play area!!

Sandgate Women's Shelter of York Region Inc. held Art as Activism at the beautiful Markham Museum on December 10/12 to engage in interactive theatre to share ways to empower marginalized communities, view beautiful artwork, paint Community Canvases for the shelter and dance to family-friendly music. A great time was held by all who attended.

The Moving Forward Foundation and staff members from the Vaughan Citizen provided every woman and all the children at the shelter and transition housing with gifts. All of the 12 children had several packages of age appropriate toys and 18 women had amazing care packages worth over \$300 including appointments for hair care, massage and grocery gift cards. The women and children also received brand new flip flops and slippers, various sizes. In addition, the children received bath robes. The generosity of the donors were really appreciated by all the recipients of these gifts over the holiday season.

A Poem from a former Resident:

This place does not look familiar to me . I'm confused.

Here the ceilings are high and the paint is bright and the voices appear to be new. Each hand comes out to me and not down. Each word is smooth and not loud. God, where are I?

I'm tired but stay up in fear of fear, that what I endured would return; my real life nightmare.

Where do I go when nothing is right and I have nothing left? When the odds are against me and all I have is my heart on the table to bet?

Here I am, this safe house where I should be protected from the tide, waiting patiently for the shore to wash up my peace, my strength and my pride.

This time I will wait and not return. This time I will believe in their words. You're brave, you're a survivor, you're beautiful, you're more than you know.

In this safe place, where the ceilings are high and the walls are bright, where nothing was right and I had nothing left, where the odds were against me, they showed my life is worth more than a bet.

24 Hour Crisis Line : If you need immediate support or require information please call: 1-800-661-8294

905-722-3220 – Jackson's Point  905-787-8604 – Richmond Hill  1-800-661-8294  TTY: 905-722-6223



Above: A child attempting to break open the piñata in the chapel at De La Salle in Jackson's Point



Upper right: Richmond Hill Shelter Staff and two York Region Police officers attend at Richmond Green for the 20th Year Anniversary on June 4/12. Despite the cold, rainy weather, we had a good turnout and a great time was had by all. Right: a very delicious cake completed the celebrations!!



TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Sandgate has established short term transitional housing units to assist women in their quest to establish lives free from violence. Sandgate acknowledges safe, affordable housing is often a barrier to the women we serve. These units are meant to be an interim solution to the long term goal for women's success. In an effort to support as many women as possible, these units are available on a short term basis of six months. The units available include one - 3 bedroom, one- 2 bedroom and 2- 2 studio apartments (one wheelchair assessable). These second stage housing units are available to women and their children using the services of Sandgate Women's Shelter of York Region.

UPCOMING DATES OF SIGNIFICANCE:

July 1st is Canada Day; July 9th –Helen Gregory MacGill–the first woman judge in BC, appointed in 1917; August 6th is a Civic Holiday; August 9th is International Day of the World's indigenous People; August 30th –Rosemary Brown– the first black woman elected in political office in BC legislature 1972; September 3rd is Labour Day; September 17th Rosh Hashanah begins; September 9th is National Grandparents Day; September 25th Yom Kippur begins.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our donors, volunteers and supporters for your time and efforts in 2012.

Fundraising, Donations and Volunteer Opportunities

Donations: Our women and children are always in need of both new and used donations. The items that our workers most often suggest for women are gift cards for grocery or department stores. Sometimes it is empowering for them to be able to shop and select what they need. Used clothing is also welcome, however please keep in mind that it should be of a quality equal to what you would give to your sister.

Wish to make a donation? Income Tax Receipts will be issued for donations of \$10 or more, unless otherwise requested. Please make cheques payable to Sandgate Women's Shelter of York Region and forward to P.O. Box 248, Sutton West, ON L0E 1R0, Attention: Business Manager

Sandgate Cookbooks for Sale! Sandgate's 2nd cookbook is filled with wonderful recipes of foods from around the world; foods our women share with their families and now with you. The sale of these books is a fundraiser for Sandgate. They are \$8.00 each. To order please call the Administration Coordinator at 905-722-4043 x113

Volunteer Opportunities: Would you like to make a difference in the lives of women and their children? Sandgate provides free, on-going training and workshops for those interested in volunteering at Sandgate. Opportunities available include: Assisting at Special events, Off-site Help, General Cleaning, Grocery shopping, others. For more information, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at 905-476-8992.

CHILD WITNESS PROGRAM Our Child Witness Program is called the "Let's Talk" program. The program is designed to help children throughout York Region understand the cycle of abuse and to deal with their feelings as witnesses to violence against women.

Group support is offered to children ages 4–16 and runs on a ten (10) week cycle. A concurrent mother's group covers the same topic each week as the children's group. Mothers are invited and encouraged to attend this group to support their children's learning in the program. The "Let's Talk" program is run out of various locations in York Region in the evenings free of charge.

Summer programs are offered for a full week in July and August free of charge. The dates are July 16-20 and August 20-24. Please call the Groups Facilitator at 905-476-8993 ext. 202

Braille Brochures: Our programs and service brochures are now available in large print and Braille brochures. If you know of anyone who might benefit from this product, please contact us at 905-722-4043 ext 113 to order your copy. Brochures are also available in English, Chinese, Spanish, Farsi, Urdu, Russian and Tamil.