

Mary's Place: An Emergency Shelter Facility For Women Exiting Human Trafficking

Project Summary:

- Our project is about human trafficking in Durham Region with a focus on the exit process, healing process, recovery process, and the reintegration process for female victims of human trafficking.
- The issue being addressed is the lack of emergency housing for victims leaving human trafficking available in Durham.
- The project also focuses on the need for housing supports for victims with addictions as they are often turned away by other shelters.

Project Goals:

- Improving the exit process for female victims of human trafficking and preventing re-entry through emergency housing.
- Providing necessary tools for victims over 18 to reintegrate into society.
- For victims to discover their true purpose, values, vision, goals, motivations and beliefs.
- To create a safety net for victims over 18 years of age who have aged out of the child care system and who are deemed more as homeless.

Methods:

- Providing emergency housing facility based in downtown Whitby that offers a variety of services and programs that are specialized for victims of human trafficking.
- Our services are geared towards the recovery process based on physical, mental, and emotional trauma as well as including services and programs towards self-development workshops, career and professional skills development, one-on-one and group counseling and therapy - trauma based therapy, self-esteem workshops, mindful movement classes daily life skills - budgeting, career planning, cooking, nutrition guides etc. as well as extra curricular activities

Outcomes:

- Better prepared female victims of human trafficking to re-enter society
- Helped female human trafficking victims process and heal from the trauma they faced while being trafficked
- Reduce the rate of homeless female victims.
- Provide female victims with critical tools and resources to aid in self-healing and moving forward into a good quality life where they can become a functioning member of society

Why is this important?:

- From what research has showed us, there are community-based organizations that provide services and programs geared towards victims of human trafficking within the Durham region. However, we noticed there is a housing crisis for victims exiting human trafficking.
- The Durham Region of Ontario should invest in increasing further emergency housing for victims of human trafficking.

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