

## wish list

Please help us provide the following items to our clients:

### Food bank items

Rice/Pasta/Noodles  
Cooking Oil  
Flour  
Spices & Condiments  
Macaroni & Cheese  
Peanut Butter  
Baby Food  
Canned Vegetables & Fruit  
Canned Fish  
Cereals  
Snacks for School Lunches  
Juice Boxes  
Canned and Powdered Assorted Milk Products  
Ethnic Foods such as Fufu, Couscous, Basmati Rice, etc.

### Other needs

Diapers  
Personal Hygiene Products  
Cleaning Supplies  
Laundry Detergent & Fabric Softener  
Toilet Paper & Paper Towels  
TTC Tokens

Thank you!



*Our friends at Winners throw their annual BBQ event at Ernestine's Women's Shelter. It was a fantastic day, complete with great food, wonderful company, and even a bouncing castle for the kids!*



*Staff and volunteers of Ernestine's Women's Shelter gather at Nathan Phillips Square to show their gratitude and support to the United Way as they prepare to launch their 2008 campaign.*

## our mission

Ernestine's Women's Shelter, an organization run by women, provides support and shelter for women and children escaping violence.

Ernestine's assists women and children in rebuilding their lives by providing crisis intervention and a range of holistic support services, while acknowledging the multitude of issues facing survivors of abuse.

Ernestine's adapts its services to honour diversity and the unique needs of the individual.

Ernestine's promotes awareness, education and advocates for early intervention and prevention.

**Ernestine's**  
*inspire.*

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# inspiration

## Celebrate Children

National Child Day - November 20, 2008

*Written by Sayurie Naidoo*

November 20th is celebrated every year in Canada as National Child Day. This day is celebrated around the world as Universal Children's Day. It commemorates the day on which the United Nations adopted two landmark documents concerning human rights of all children and youth, the Declaration on the Rights of the Child and the Convention of the Rights of the Child. The purpose of this day is to increase awareness of children's rights. The UN Convention recognizes the rights of children and youth under the age of 18, which include basic human rights, as well as additional rights to protect them from harm.

This is of great significance to our organization. One of our guiding principles is that Ernestine's Women's Shelter recognizes the impact of violence on children and acknowledges that the rights of children are separate and distinct from their parents. We aim to abide by this principle in every aspect of our work. Our child and youth programmers work one-on-one with the children and youth at the shelter. The services provided are separate from those provided to their mothers by our women's counsellors. The intended long-term outcome of this program is to break the cycle of violence. This is achieved in part by aiding the cognitive, linguistic, physical, and emotional development of each individual. The goal is to have each child one day reach his or her full potential as a self-sufficient, positive member of society living a life free from violence.

We are proud to be able to provide the children at Ernestine's with the same necessities as other children have. Although we are a shelter, we are so much more than that alone. For the past 25 years, we have been a home to hundreds of children.

On November 20th, 2008, celebrate the children in your life, and think of the children residing at Ernestine's Women's Shelter.

## Thank you!!

Thank you to our corporate partners at CapitalOne who made the funding possible for Ernestine's to expand our outreach program with a child and youth focus. We are thrilled to be able to enhance our outreach program this significantly. Thanks, CapitalOne!



*Our friends at CapitalOne deliver a cheque to Ernestine's to fund a new child and youth position for our outreach clients.*

A regular newsletter by Ernestine's Women's Shelter  
November 2008

**Ernestine's**  
*inspire.*

## It's the little things...

...that have a big impact

To celebrate her 25th birthday, Marissa Wolicki decided to host a fundraiser for Ernestine's Women's Shelter called "The Pink and Black Affair". The night included a dinner and dance, and was complete with a silent auction. \$20 from each ticket, as well as 100% of proceeds from the silent auction were donated to Ernestine's. Marissa was able to present us with a cheque for \$915!

Jessica Battiston donated a day at Fantasy Fair to the children at the shelter. This wonderful day was complete with free entry to the Fair for the children and mothers, a party room, and a pizza lunch. The children had a fantastic day! Thank you, Jessica!

With the holiday season fast approaching, think of Ernestine's when hosting your next holiday party. Rather than bringing a gift or bottle of wine, ask your guests to make a donation by cash or cheque. For more details on how you can make it happen, contact our Fundraiser, Sayurie Naidoo, at 416-743-1733 ext. 2015 or by e-mail at fundraiser@ernestines.ca



Marissa Wolicki (bottom left in pink) threw a dinner and dance fundraising event called "The Pink and Black Affair" to celebrate her 25th birthday. \$915 was raised for Ernestine's!!!



Students from Michael Power - St. Joseph High school stock the shelves of our food bank with items collected through their food drive for Ernestine's..

## Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 8, 2009 - Donor Appreciation Event

We have the best donors in the world, and would love to show you our appreciation. EWS, with the wonderful support of the InterContinental Hotel Yorkville, will be hosting this special celebration in honor of our donors. Spaces are limited, so RSVP early. For more information on how to reserve your space, please contact Sayurie Naidoo at 416-743-1733 ext. 2015 or at fundraiser@ernestines.ca

Thursday, April 30, 2009 - Ernestine Affair 2009

Get ready for a night filled with great food, fabulous entertainment, wonderful auction prizes, and good company! Tickets are \$100 each. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. For more information on how to purchase tickets or donate auction items, please contact Sayurie Naidoo at 416-743-1733 ext. 2015 or at fundraiser@ernestines.ca.

## Inspire: Celebration

### A look back at 2008

Written by Sayurie Naidoo

As 2008 comes to a close, we can look back and celebrate our 25th year of service. Although we have found many reasons to celebrate, our victories can only last from day to day. Violence against women and children is still at large. Every woman and child to enter our shelter has been a victim of abuse, including the 53 women and 43 children who have received shelter this past year. In addition, hundreds of women and children who have moved out of our shelter are serviced through our outreach program, as well as our transitional housing program which supports those women who are unable to stay at the shelter. Among all of these women, we have seen a diverse array of socio-cultural and economic backgrounds. This just shows that anyone can be a victim of violence, regardless of who you are, where you come from, what you look like, or how much money you make.

This year we have had an average occupancy rate of 93% at the shelter. The only event of us having an empty room was when a family had moved out, however that space was soon filled with a new family. This has been an ongoing cycle over the past 25 years, and we are working everyday to change that. We will be happy to see the day when our services are no longer needed, but until then we can only do the best job that we can.

This past year, in the shelter alone we have delivered well over 10,000 direct hours of service. This includes counseling, crisis intervention, child and youth programs, support groups and skills exchange workshops. We have also delivered well over 5000 indirect hours of service, including such services as advocacy, referrals, accompaniments, and child protection involvement. Our legal support counsellor has had her hands full this year with issues such as advocating for women fleeing violence, supporting women having to face their abusers in court, and educating women about their rights and obligations.

Our housing counsellor reports that more women have been approved for affordable housing than in the past. In addition to being approved, the process has been far quicker than more recently. This is wonderful news for the women and children that we service, as it means that we can support the permanent settling into new homes and new lives living free of violence. The transition from the shelter to permanent affordable housing is crucial. EWS staff can ensure that no gaps in service occur and ensure that vital services continue for women and their children after they leave the shelter.

We are proud to say that every woman living in the shelter was given a gift on her birthday, and we have been able to provide every child with a birthday party. This past summer the children were able to participate in day trips to places such as the CNE, Canada's Wonderland, the Ontario Science Centre, and Fantasy Fair. These may sound like "normal" experience for many, but for the children residing in the shelter these were first experiences.

This past year has been about celebrations. We have celebrated our staff for the wonderful service they provide, our volunteers for their dedication and commitment, our donors for their generosity and kindness, and lastly and most importantly, the wonderful women and children who inspire us every day.

We look forward to seeing you in 2009.



The wonderful team from CapitalOne cooked a delicious dinner at the shelter for our clients and staff.

## question & answer

Q: How has the current economic state affected the shelter?

A: Financial stress placed on a family can certainly increase the risk of domestic violence. We always notice an increase in violence over the holiday season, as this is a time when expenses are higher than usual. Unfortunately, the current state of the economy gives us reason to believe that this will once again be a reality in the months ahead. We more than ever need the financial support of our donors at this time.

Please e-mail your questions to fundraiser@ernestines.ca or send them to us in the mail.