

Mission Statement:

Under the leadership of a volunteer board of directors, Nova Vita Domestic Violence Prevention Services is a multi-service agency with a focus on domestic violence prevention, education and intervention in Brantford and the County of Brant. We have strong professional staff offering holistic services to women, children and men. We are closely connected to the community with a diverse funding base.

Vision Statement:

Nova Vita will be an established community leader offering an expanded range of well-resourced programs that contribute to violence-free living.

HELP. HOPE. HEAL.

Values:

- With the belief that everyone has the right to live a life without violence, we will help women, children and men.
- We focus on domestic violence prevention because we want to help as soon as possible.
- Our services and programs produce positive results that benefit the entire community.
- We will use innovative ideas and best practices to develop and maintain services and community partnerships, which respond to the needs of the community we serve.
- We are efficient, effective and accountable.

Contact Information:

Nova Vita Domestic Violence Prevention Services

59 North Park Street, Brantford, Ontario N3R 4J8

24 Hour Crisis Line 519.752.HELP (4357)

All other calls 519.752.1005
Fax: 519.752.0811

www.novavita.org

www.daisyofhope.org

E-mail: info@novavita.org

Revenue Canada Charitable Tax: 10777 1727 RR0001



Annual Report 2011 - 2012



novavita
help. hope. heal.

Domestic Violence Prevention Services

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Community Partners, Colleagues and Friends,

Last year will be known as the year of many ups and downs.

The 2011/12 fiscal year brought with it serious financial hardship and wildly fluctuating occupancy rates in our residential shelter, which of course affected our bottom line. If one word could describe this year it would be unpredictable!

For the first time, we faced a serious budget deficit due to reduced fundraising revenue and chronic underfunding in our men’s program, Partner Assault Program and our residential homelessness program (funded by the City of Brantford). The Board of Directors decided that we could no longer subsidize these programs with fundraised revenue - our only alternatives were to reduce the number of PAR groups we offer and to go to the City of Brantford to request an increase in our per diem rate for homeless women and their children. The consequences of these decisions meant longer waiting lists and the possibility of homeless women and their children not receiving service. With the support of the Nova Vita Board of Directors, our strategy was to request additional one time funding for the 2012/13 fiscal year from the Brant United Way and the City of Brantford to avoid future budget deficits and possible reductions in service for 2012/13.

The response of our community partners was amazing! Brant United Way graciously considered our request and within our requested timeline, granted our request. We are very grateful for and appreciative of the wonderful working relationship we have with Brant United Way. It is gratifying to have such a supportive community partner.

The City of Brantford also responded positively to our request for funding. We were able to renegotiate our service contract so that we would receive the maximum amount of funding available to us within the calendar year and a review of per diem rates for shelters and domiciliary hostels was commissioned by City Council. The results of the review will be presented to City Council in November 2012; we are hopeful that our per diem rate will be increased. So, a potentially very difficult year has begun to turn the corner.

If there is one thing that is predictable at Nova Vita is that nothing is predictable. Often, the community asks if we see any trends in service demand and delivery and we usually answer “yes, the trend is that there are no trends” and true to form, this year has been exactly like that. For three months in 2011, our occupancy rate in the shelter was averaging below 70%, whereas in previous years the occupancy rates were in excess of 90%. The reasons for this are unknown – however, we do know that other shelters in Brantford experienced the same phenomenon. However, since April of this year, our



Victoria Malcolm
President



Joy Freeman
Executive Director



In memory of our dear board member, Ken Ayseough. Thank you for your devotion and commitment to Nova Vita over the past 18 years. You will always be in our thoughts.

Management Team

2011-2012

Joy Freeman - Executive Director

Lynda Falle - Director of Operations

Gail Quinlan - Director of Counselling Services

Katie Maas - Supervisor of Residential Services

Raghida Mazzawi - Supervisor of Community Counselling

Board of Directors
2011-2012

Victoria Malcolm
President

Dianne Wallis
1st Vice President

Colette Good
Secretary

Ian Robb
Treasurer

Candace Wells
Past President

Brian Finnigan
Director

Gerri Jensen
Director

Lisa Herbert
Director

Louise Scott
Director

Linda Hiebert
Director

*Donna Gardener
Director

*Robin McNaughton
Director

*resigned during the year

The holiday season is just around the corner...

Last year, our holiday program was a huge success due to our committed volunteers and donors. With your donations we helped over 70 families make the holiday season a little brighter. Our volunteers worked countless hours sorting and packaging gifts for all the women and children we serve. This year we hope to have your support again; we are looking for gifts for children of all ages and interests such as:

- board games, puzzles, books
- action figures, lego
- dolls, barbies, journals
- cd's, dvd's & video games
- pyjamas, slippers
- gift certificates for teens
- infant & toddler toys

If possible, please include wrapping paper, tags and tape with your donation. Items must be new and unwrapped.

Financial donations are always appreciated - this allows Nova Vita to purchase specific items on a child's list. Please deliver your donation to 59 North Park Street, Brantford Mon. - Fri. between 9AM - 5PM before Friday, December 14th.



occupancy rate has sky rocketed - and as I write this, there are 35 residents in the shelter (we are funded for 30) and 20 of those residents are under six years of age! Needless to say, staff are being run off their feet.

All of our other programs, Community Counselling, General Abuse Recovery Group, WOW for senior women, Family Outreach, Caring Families and the Challenge to Change have been filled to capacity and have waiting lists.

Inspite of reduced donations and underfunding, we have managed to continue to stay afloat, providing abused and homeless women and their children a safe place and support when they have needed it.

And finally, we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the passing of Board Member Ken Ayscough, who was a dedicated and loyal Board member for 18 years. His gentle manner and wealth of knowledge will be remembered and missed by all.

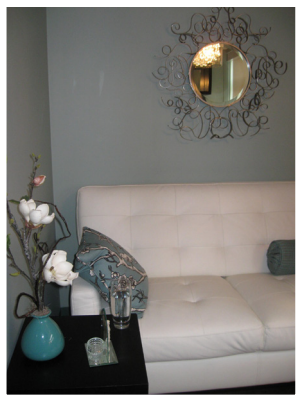
As always, we are grateful for our community supporters and partners who help us heal and provide hope to homeless and abused victims and perpetrators of domestic violence.

We sincerely thank you.

Respectfully,

Victoria Malcolm
Board President

Joy Freeman
Executive Director



Our Vice President, Dianne Wallis, (Decorating Den Interiors), generously and graciously donated her talent and experience to create a beautiful calming interview room for clients.



Thank you to all our volunteers and donors who helped with events to support Nova Vita - we appreciate everything you do for us!

Challenge to Change Program

For individuals who are, or are at risk of being abusive and controlling toward their partners, the Challenge to Change Program is designed to teach individuals how to use non abusive, healthy ways to communicate, problem solve and relate in their relationships.

The program invites individuals to take responsibility for all abusive thoughts and actions and to respect themselves and their families. Participants will develop an understanding of the complexity of domestic violence which extends beyond physical abuse including verbal, emotional, financial, sexual and psychological abuse.

Partner Check

The safety of partners is the first priority of the program. All participants of the Challenge to Change Program must sign a statement agreeing to limited confidentiality and consenting to participation in the Partner Check Program. In each case, the client's partner is contacted by mail, with information about domestic abuse and community resources. A follow up telephone call assesses the partner's personal safety and assists in designing a personal safety plan.

Ongoing contact is provided according to the needs of each partner. Drop in sessions are available each week for the partners of the clients attending our groups.



United Way
Brant

Change starts here.

International Women's Day 2013

Wednesday March 6th, Best Western Plus
Cocktails 5:30PM, Dinner 6:30PM

Live Performance 9:00PM, Tickets \$65

Kim Davis commands listeners' attention using only the instrument of her voice. Her songs offer glimpses into her life, told through melodies of hope and love.

The Toronto native has seen her relentless work ethic pay off with fan appreciation and nationwide peer recognition for her own distinctive brand of R&B.

In 2010, Davis earned her first Juno Award nomination. She also earned her third nomination for a D.J. Stylus Award and four nominations for Buffalo radio station WBLK 97.3's Unsigned Hype Awards, which she has already won thrice previously.

Davis has attained her success despite having faced great personal adversity. Instead of retelling traumatic stories, she chooses to inspire hope and instill moral and social values in her audiences.

To reserve tickets please visit our web site at www.novavita.org

R&B Artist of the year
Kim Davis



International Women's Day



Samantha Nutt

International Women's Day has grown at a phenomenal pace over the last three years. Last year, Dr. Samantha Nutt, founder of *War Child*, delivered a poignant and inspiring speech about her experiences in war torn third world countries. Her book *Damned Nations* is both revealing and shocking. At the event, Dr. Nutt graciously donated the proceeds of her book back to Nova Vita.

Another truly inspiring speaker, a former client, told her heart-wrenching story of abuse, hardship, family tragedy, and hope and healing.

For the first time this year, we honoured a woman in our community with the Woman of Excellence Award. With over 18 nominations, our selection committee endured the tough task of selecting only one winner.

The winner of the 2012 Woman of Excellence Award went to Lisa Tara Hooper. Lisa was born with cerebral palsy and has faced many challenges in her life - including her search for employment. Her courage and determination ensured she overcame obstacles in her path. She is a firm believer that even the most devastating experiences can help us discover our passions in life. Lisa believes it is passion that drives us, that pushes us beyond our limits to succeed, to go beyond what we thought possible. With that philosophy in mind, Lisa decided to start her own training and consulting business to assist people with disabilities to create their own passion and niche in life.



Lisa Tara Hooper

International Women's Day 2013

WHO WILL **you** nominate
for the **Woman of Excellence Award?**

This award recognizes a special woman for her accomplishments and contributions to society and the lives of others.

ARE YOU **being abused?**

Does your partner...

- Have violent outbursts for minor reasons, or no reason at all?
- Isolate you, try to stop you from seeing friends and family?
- Make you feel stupid, crazy or worthless?
- Insult you, put you down?
- Threaten violence?
- Push, shove, hit, kick, slap or punch you?
- Make you feel afraid for yourself and your children?
- Act jealous, accuse you of cheating on him?
- Make you feel guilty or ashamed?
- Control all the money, spend too much on drinking and gambling?
- Emotionally tear you apart?
- Hurt, or threaten to hurt your pets?
- Make promises to change, but never does?

**If some or all of these sound familiar, you are not alone.
Help is available in your community.**

Shelter and Community Counselling Services

Financial Report

For the fiscal year April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012



Shelter Services

Women	159
Children	146
Total number of shelter residents	305
Average length of stay	29 days
Total average occupancy	82%



Community Counselling Services

Women in Transitional Housing & Support	262
Women in Counselling Programs	378
Children Exposed to Domestic Violence Program	
*Mothers	36
*Children	42
Men’s Counselling Programs	
*Challenge to Change/Partner Assault	327
*Partner Contact	338
Caring Families Program	105
Volunteer Hours	1,832



Revenue

Provincial Government	1,503,775
Fund raising and Grants	378,419
Municipal Government	238,378
Other Sources of Revenue	102,238
Brant United Way	70,000
Total	2,292,810

Expenditures

Residential Services	1,332,778
*Shelter Program	
*Children’s Program	
*Transitional Program	
Community Counselling	827,760
*Women’s Program	
*Men’s Program	
*Children’s Program	
Community Outreach/Violence Prevention	158,715
Total	2,319,253

A complete set of audited statements is available upon request by calling 752-1005 ext. 214 during business hours.