

40 YEARS OF HOPE



NOVA VITA
Help • Hope • Heal

ANNUAL REPORT
2023-2024

Message from the President of the Board and Executive Director

As we conclude the year of celebrating 40 Years of Hope, Nova Vita has so much to be proud of and acknowledges the work still ahead. On the Board's behalf, I sincerely thank our staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners. To our volunteers, your tireless efforts are invaluable. To our donors, your financial support enables our vital work. To our community partners, your collaboration enhances our collective impact. To our dedicated staff, your daily commitment, compassion, and expertise are the backbone of our organization. You save lives and make a difference every day; I hope you can remember that on the hardest days. The Board is committed to finding ways to better support you, ensuring you can continue to support our clients and care for yourselves. Together, we can help, heal, and create hope every day. Thank you all for being an essential part of Nova Vita's journey.

Patricia Lovelock
Board President

Reflecting on this past year, I am in awe of the tremendous support we received from our community partners, politicians, and friends of Nova Vita as we celebrated 40 years of providing help, hope, and healing. We recognize that ending violence is not something we can achieve alone; it requires a multi-faceted approach involving government at all levels, justice partners, educators, service providers, cultural leaders, businesses of all sizes, and everyday individuals. This year, a significant step was taken when both the City of Brantford and the County of Brant declared intimate partner violence and gender-based violence an epidemic, acknowledging the far-reaching impacts in our own community and the urgent need to address these issues. It is a stark reminder of why Nova Vita continues to exist and the important work our staff and volunteers do every day.

Natasha Dobler
Executive Director



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Our Vision

A world without violence, where individuals, relationships, families, and communities are **safe, empowered, and healthy.**

Our Mission

Nova Vita works to **end interpersonal violence and abuse by supporting individuals and families** who have experienced domestic violence, intimate partner violence or gender-based violence through the provision of crisis intervention, emergency shelter, transitional support, children's programs, and counselling; and by fostering accountability for those who harm through intervention, counselling, public education, and systemic advocacy.

Our Values

At Nova Vita, we are:

- Trauma-Informed
- Inclusive
- Community-Focused
- Effective
- Accountable
- Leaders





Programs & Services

Serving Brantford and the County of Brant for over 40 years, Nova Vita provides safe shelter, security, and essential support to individuals and families impacted by violence and homelessness.

24 Hour Crisis & Support Line
Call/Text: 519-752-HELP | Webchat: novavita.org/chat

- Emergency Shelter
- Housing & Outreach Support Program
- Second Stage Transitional Housing
- Counselling for Women*
- Children's Programs
- Family Programs
- Services for Youth
- Services for Men*
- Challenge to Change Program
- Community Engagement & Public Education

*Includes gender-diverse individuals

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

HOUSING & OUTREACH SUPPORT

Women* experiencing abuse, who do not need to stay at Nova Vita, can access our Housing and Outreach Support Program. Our Transitional Support Workers provide outreach services with expertise in safety planning, housing support, court processes, anti-human trafficking, and system navigation, as well as supporting multicultural communities and rural communities. For more information, contact 519-752-1005 ext 221 or info@novavita.org.

 238

women were assisted by **Transitional Support Workers** to develop safety plans, find affordable housing, and transition out of an abusive relationship

 32

individuals at risk of/experiencing **human trafficking** were provided support, safety planning, counselling, and advocacy

 112

individuals were supported with **system navigation of family court**, obtaining legal aid, finding a lawyer, and safety planning

"I didn't know I was living in a cycle of violence and so were my children. Nova Vita helped me understand that the abuse wasn't normal."



"My son felt safe here and came out of his shell again."

"Staff attended court with me. I felt at ease knowing that they were there to support me."





40

40 YEARS OF HOPE

Thank you to our community for helping us honour Nova Vita and the 40 years we have been able to offer help, give hope, and support healing to more than 25,000 individuals and families impacted by violence and homelessness.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE

We kicked off our year-long campaign by opening our doors to community partners and supporters for a celebratory meet and greet that included a behind-the-scenes tour of Nova Vita.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's AGM was a special celebration for us and our supporters, as we reflected on our year. It was also filled with stories that honoured our past and set plans to build for our future.

IPV DECLARATIONS IN BRANTFORD & BRANT COUNTY

Both the City of Brantford and the County of Brant joined more than 95 municipalities across Ontario in declaring Intimate Partner Violence and Gender-Based Violence an epidemic.

IWD THEME: "NOVA VITA'S PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE"

Guests were treated to an evening to celebrate 40 years of help, hope, and healing we have provided to our community, all while raising over \$60,000 to support our essential shelter services.



**WRAPPED IN COURAGE
FLAG RAISINGS**
November 23 - 29, 2023



**IWD THEME: "NOVA VITA'S PAST,
PRESENT & FUTURE"**
March 6, 2024



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
September 25, 2023



**IPV DECLARATION IN
BRANTFORD & BRANT COUNTY**
October & December 2023



"40 YEARS" CAMPAIGN
Launched June 2023



OPEN HOUSE
June 14, 2023



Making A Difference Together

2023-2024 Annual Partners

A special thank you to our annual partners for investing in Nova Vita. We are grateful for you and all of our sponsors, donors, and community supporters for helping make a difference.

HEAL Level



HOPE Level

HELP Level



🕒 1,352

hours donated
by our
dedicated
volunteers

💬 33

public education
presentations and
community events,
engaging over 1,711 people

❤️ 307

individuals
participated in
one of our
fundraising events



Thank You to Our Board of Directors

Nova Vita is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of dedicated community members who volunteer their time and service to lead our organization.



Patricia Lovelock, President
Shannon McMannis, Vice-President
Sasha Hill, Secretary
Safi Hafiz-Zadeh, Treasurer
Odion Akhirevbulu
Rae-Lynne Aramburo
Abbey Avery
Michaela Kargus

Candis McInnes
Paul Oddi
Emily O’Kell
Susan Swackhammer



SPECIAL PROJECTS



Capital Project

We are grateful to the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) for providing us funding to renovate our shelter washrooms and upgrade our HVAC systems.



Strengthening from Within Project

This project, funded by the Government of Canada’s Community Services Recovery Fund (CSRF), allowed us to enhance our management information systems, build administrative capacity, and modernize internal processes to strengthen our organization’s IT infrastructure and grow our organization into the future.



Our Impact

 6,419

crisis and support calls answered on our 24 hour phone line and web-based chat
519-752-HELP | novavita.org/chat

 69  72
Women Children

found safe emergency shelter at Nova Vita

 17

babies under the age of 1 stayed at Nova Vita and called it one of their very first homes

 322

women received individual and group counselling to heal from the violence and abuse they experienced

 12  14
Women Children

lived safely in one of our Second Stage Transitional Housing apartments

 85
Caregivers

were supported through our Caring Families, Differential Response, and Pathways To Healing family-based programs

 62

children were provided counselling, safety planning, and trauma-informed supports through Children's Programs

 414

men were helped to increase their knowledge, skills, resources, and self-awareness to develop and maintain healthier relationships

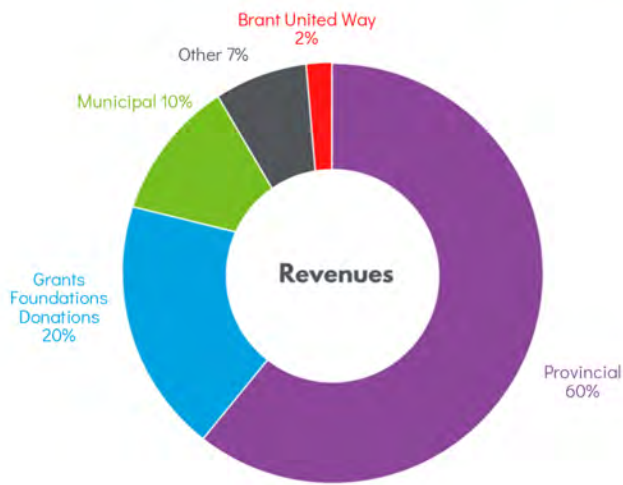
 193

individuals who used violence in their relationship, received counselling and intervention through our PAR Program

"To exit out of trafficking is no small feat. It takes hours of learning who you can trust, waiting for the right opportunity at the right time, a safe person, a safe place to go, a safe way to get there, and people ready to jump into action when you are able to exit."



Financials Relating to General Operations



Provincial	\$1,896,738
Grants/Foundations/Donations	\$635,564
Municipal	\$309,927
Other Sources of Revenue	\$229,207
Brant United Way	\$70,000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$3,141,436

Emergency Shelter	\$1,439,067
Housing & Outreach Support	\$329,189
Community Counselling	\$758,278
Community Engagement	\$202,319
Administration	\$194,807
Fundraising	\$50,794
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,974,454




BOUTIQUE
 CLOSET COUTURE

This year we closed our doors to Closet Couture Boutique. We are incredibly grateful for the love, support, and countless hours served by our dedicated volunteers. Thank you to our shoppers, donors, and supporters for 10 years of wonderful memories and making a difference for our community.



You can make a difference.



Save the Dates

Nova Vita Celebrates International Women's Day

March 6, 2025

Garden of Hope

May 2025

Blooms of Hope

June 2025

Golf Fore Nova Vita

August 12, 2025

Break the Silence on Domestic Violence

November 24, 2025

Hope for the Holidays

November & December 2025

  **@NovaVitaBrant**



Women and Gender Equality Canada



Femmes et Égalité des genres Canada



Nova Vita

Domestic Violence Prevention Services

59 North Park Street, Brantford, ON N3R 4J8

519-752-1005 | novavita.org | @NovaVitaBrant  

REGISTERED CHARITABLE TAX # 10777 1727 RR0001