



North York  
Women's Shelter

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## First Time Collaboration of 3 Violence Against Women Shelters

NORTH YORK – January 23, 2013

For the first time ever, three V.A.W. Shelters – North York Women's Shelter (NYWS), Ernestine's and Women's Habitat, gathered their staff in one room, at one time, for staff and management training. Strength-Centered Advocacy Training was attended by 74 staff and management with the collaborative goal of enhancing the level of service provided to the women and children they serve.

“Part of our HOPE Blooms! Capital Campaign at NYWS was to obtain a Head Office where we could reach out to our community and serve its needs better” says NYWS Executive Director Charlene Catchpole. “This two-day training would not have been possible without a venue that would hold all the staff.”

“Strength-Centered Advocacy Training will allow all three shelters to raise the level of service to the women and children who are survivors of violence and abuse. The training focuses on using the strengths of our staff to identify the strengths of the women and children we serve in order to support them through their transition to a life free from violence and abuse.”

In July, 2012 NYWS launched its HOPE BLOOMS! Capital Campaign (with a revenue target of \$4.5 million) which has an ultimate goal of building a new facility that would encompass more outreach programs, free up bed space in our emergency Shelter, shorten wait times, and also create transitional support and housing. For more information on HOPE Blooms!, contact Charlene Catchpole, Executive Director, at [Charlene@nyws.ca](mailto:Charlene@nyws.ca) or 416.638.7335 ext. 232 or Sojie Tate, Capital Campaign Coordinator at [sojie@nyws.ca](mailto:sojie@nyws.ca) or 416.638.7335 ext. 245.

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Since 1984, **NORTH YORK WOMEN'S SHELTER (NYWS)**, has provided a place of safety, support and hope for over 10,000 families who are survivors of violence and abuse. For more information regarding NYWS, contact Lorraine Johnson, Resource Development Manager 416.638.7335 ext. 233 or [lorrainej@nyws.ca](mailto:lorrainej@nyws.ca) [www.nyws.ca](http://www.nyws.ca)

**Ernestine's:** Sharlene Tygesen (ext. 2012) or Jill Cunningham (ext. 2010), Co-Executive Directors, 416.743.1733

**Women's Habitat:** Silvia Samsa, Executive Director, 416.252.7949 ext. 231