



PRESS RELEASE



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Official Opening Of Women's Shelter In Barrie

BARRIE, Ontario, December 5, 2002 — The Elizabeth Fry Society of Simcoe County celebrated the official opening of Joyce Kope House, its new supportive housing facility today. The opening and expansion of the women's residential facility was made possible as a result of a partnership involving the Government of Canada and other community partners.

The Government of Canada is contributing \$586,000 towards the project through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) Shelter Enhancement Program, a program designed to address the shelter needs of victims of family violence.

"The Government of Canada congratulates The Elizabeth Fry Society of Simcoe County on the official opening and rededication of the Joyce Kope House", said the local Member of Parliament, Ms. Aileen Carroll on behalf of the Honourable David Collenette, Minister of Transport and Minister responsible for CMHC. "We are committed to ensuring safe, secure shelter for all residents and are pleased to partner with The Elizabeth Fry Society on this important initiative."

The shelter also received funding under Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) and other community contributions and donations to assist with the modifications and equipment in the building. SCPI supports local community efforts under the National Homelessness Initiative. The other partners providing funding for the shelter include the County of Simcoe, Correctional Services Canada and the United Way.

Paula King, Executive Director of Joyce Kope House said, "With the help of CMHC and our other community partners our dream of many years has finally become reality. The additional beds will mean no woman will have to place herself at risk for a lack of a bed in a shelter."

The Joyce Kope House is a 27 bed residential facility that provides shelter and transitional housing for women aged 16 and up. Services available to residents include counseling in job preparation, court support, youth justice, an anti-shoplifting program, housing, and education.

For further information, please contact:

Paula King
(705) 725-0613