

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MAY 3, 2004

PROCLAMATION REQUEST – DAISY OF HOPE MONTH

Recommendation

The City Clerk recommends:

- 1) That the month of May be proclaimed as Daisy of Hope Month; and
- 2) That the proclamation be posted on the City's website, published on the City Page, space permitting, and that staff issue a news release.

Purpose

To respond to the request received from the Yellow Brick House.

Background - Analysis and Options

The correspondence received from Ms. Filomena Williams, Executive Director, Yellow Brick House, dated April 19, 2004, is attached (Attachment 1). The proclamation is in support of the Daisy of Hope Campaign conducted to raise awareness of the issues of domestic violence.

The proclamation request meets the requirements of the City's Proclamation Policy: *That upon request, the City of Vaughan issue proclamations for events, campaigns or other similar matters which are promoted by any organization that is a registered charity pursuant to Section 248 of the Income Tax Act.*"

The Yellow Brick House is requesting that the City of Vaughan join the towns and cities across the province by declaring the month of May to be Daisy of Hope Month.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

Staff is recommending that the month of May be proclaimed as Daisy of Hope Month and that the proclamation be posted on the City's website, published on the City Page, space permitting, and that staff issue a news release.

Attachments

Attachment 1 - Correspondence from Ms. Filomena Williams, Executive Director, Yellow Brick House, dated April 19, 2004.

Report prepared by:

Sybil Fernandes, Deputy City Clerk/Manager of Administrative Services, Ext. 8628

Respectfully submitted,

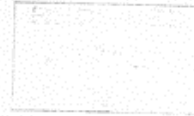
John D. Leach
City Clerk



ATTACHMENT 1

April 19, 2004

John Leach
City Clerk
City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie
Vaughan, Ontario
L7A 1T1



Dear Mr Leach:

Attached for your consideration, please find a proclamation in support of the Daisy of Hope Campaign conducted to raise awareness of the issue of woman abuse.

The Daisy of Hope Campaign was initiated in 1999 to raise both public awareness and funds, through the sale of plastic daisy pins during the month of May.

This year our shelter will be actively involved in the campaign, making daisies available to members of the public in a variety of locations. We will be joined by shelters in more than 30 communities across the province, all of them dedicated to ending the cycle of domestic violence and providing quality services to abused women and children. I have attached statistics that clearly outline the severe impact of domestic violence, nationally, provincially and for our own community.

The City of Vaughan has been very supportive of our work in the community. Please join your counterparts in other towns and cities across the province by declaring the month of May to be Daisy of Hope Month.

Because a life without violence is the only life to live.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'F. Williams'.

Filomena Williams
Executive Director

Encl.: The Truth about Domestic Violence

Filomena Williams
Executive Director

Administration

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1-800-263-2231
Fax: 905-727-7316

E-mail:
info@yellowbrickhouse.org
Website:
www.yellowbrickhouse.org
37 Wellington Street E.
Aurora, Ontario
L4G 1H6

Emergency Shelter

905-727-1944
1-800-263-3247

Outreach Services

905-881-3344
1-800-565-0383
Fax: 905-881-3337
2199 Yonge Street
Suite 401
Thornhill, Ontario
L3T 2C6

Reta's Place

905-726-3001
1-888-272-2219

Charitable Registration
#11510-5107-00001
Member of the United Way
of York Region

Daisy of Hope Month Proclamation

WHEREAS the month of May marks the Daisy of Hope Campaign, designed to raise awareness about the issues of domestic violence.

AND WHEREAS the City of Vaughan has exhibited ongoing support to end domestic violence and support for Yellow Brick House.

AND WHEREAS members of the public are invited to wear a daisy throughout May to show their support for women's shelters.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Month of May be proclaimed as **DAISY OF HOPE MONTH**.

Yellow Brick House

THE TRUTH ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Violence against women is a coast-to-coast epidemic that no longer can be denied. The facts speak for themselves.

- FACT: In Canada, at least 1 in 8 women are battered each year by their partner.
FACT: In 1 of 14 marriages the violence is severe and repeated.
FACT: In North America, more women are physically injured by their husbands or boyfriends in a year than are injured in car accidents, muggings and rapes combined.
FACT: In a given year, 2 to 3 women are murdered each week by their partner or ex-partner. Over the course of a year, approximately 150 women are killed.
FACT: Canadian women are 13 times more likely to be abused by their partner than by a stranger.

Statistics:

- A woman is beaten every 15 seconds.
- Women experience 10 times as many incidents of violence than men.
- One of every five women is a victim of violence by their spouse or ex-spouse.
- Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women between the ages of 15 and 44.
- 51% of women have experienced physical or sexual violence at least once in their adult lives.
- 22 – 35% of women who visit medical emergency rooms are there because of ongoing partner abuse.
- 92% of the victims of spousal abuse are female.
- 10% of injured women suffered internal injuries or miscarriages.
- Each year women are victims of more than 4.5 million violent crimes.
- In one year, 572,032 women experienced an act of violence at the hands of an intimate, while 48,983 men experienced the same.
- 53% of women state self-blame for the cause of violence.
- Psychological and emotional abuse is just as, or more, damaging to a woman as physical assaults.
- Two in every three victims of violence knew or were related to their attacker.
- Women are beaten an average of 35 times before they call the police.
- Weapons are used in almost half of all episodes of violence against women.
- Approximately a quarter of women abused were assaulted during pregnancy.
- Abuse is reported to the police less than 33% of the time.
- The most common reason women return home was for the sake of the children, followed by wanting to give the relationship another chance.
- Alcohol abuse does not cause domestic violence against women. While approximately 80% of assaults involve alcohol, alcohol is a contributing factor and not a cause. When alcohol or drugs are involved, a woman is much more likely to be seriously injured or killed.
- Men who have witnessed their parents' domestic violence are three times more likely to abuse their own wives than children of non-violent parents.
- Men who abuse women are not mentally ill. They want and need to have power and control in the relationship.
- 50% of homeless women and children are on the streets because of violence in the home.
- Almost 60% of those who said they had been sexually assaulted were attacked more than once.
- Women with violent fathers-in-law were three times more likely to be assaulted than other women.

The Children:

- 70% of all incidents of domestic violence are witnessed by children.
- With children who witness violence against their mother, 75% of males are likely to become abusive and about 75% of females are likely to enter into an abusive relationship.
- 50% of men who frequently assaulted their wives also frequently abused their children.
- Child abuse is more likely to occur in families where domestic violence is present.
- Over three million children are at risk of exposure to parental violence each year.
- Children who witness violence at home display emotional and behavioral disturbances as diverse as withdrawal, low self-esteem, nightmares, self-blame and aggression against peers, family members and property.
- The most significant difference between delinquent youth and non-delinquent youth is that there is a history of family violence or abuse.

Risk Factors that Increase the Chance of Wife Abuse:

- Being young (18 – 24).
- Witnessing domestic violence as a child.
- Alcohol use by one or both partners.
- Living common-law (8 times higher than in registered marriages).
- Greatest risk is at the point in the relationship when you leave, or just after you leave.

What You Can Do:

- Learn more about what your community is doing about domestic violence.
- Support your local women's shelter and the Daisy of Hope Campaign.
- Ask yourself if someone close to you is abused. If yes, be there to listen, to believe her, to let her know she is not alone. Find out about the services she can use and share this information. Respect her confidentiality and give her time to make her own decisions. Encourage her to talk about what she can do to plan for her own and her children's safety.
- As a parent you can teach children to value the contributions, rights and responsibilities of all individuals, regardless of gender, age, race, culture or ability.

Daisy of Hope:

The Daisy of Hope is a public awareness and fund raising campaign. In three years it has grown from an undertaking by one women's shelter, Nova Vita, to more than 30 shelters across Ontario. Funding generated through the sale of daisies remains with the participating shelter and is used to benefit their community.

October, 01