



FAMILY SERVICES of the NORTH SHORE

SAFER PLACES PROJECT

Donor Report 2006-07

BACKGROUND

The Safer Places Project was developed as Family Services of the North Shore's commitment to create a safe place for all victims of violence and sexual abuse. This project has allowed us to deliver specialized prevention and intervention services to at-risk children, youth and adults. Because violence against a child affects every family member, services have been uniquely designed from a **client-centered** and **family-focused approach**, giving victims and their families a voice and process with which to confront the trauma of abuse. Ultimately, this results in families that are safer and stronger with a capacity and resilience that enables them to heal and go on to lead healthy, productive lives.

Designed specifically to meet identified community needs and gaps in service, donor support for Safer Places has led to the creation of the only **comprehensive** therapeutic support service for families affected by violence and sexual abuse on the North Shore. We have increased our counselling capacity and decreased waitlists giving clients the opportunity to access individual, group, educational and outreach services in a timely manner.

It is part of our agency's mission to provide quality clinical, educational and outreach services for all individuals and families on the North Shore. The Safer Places Project is an integrated, community driven, family-focused strategy that provides a continuum of programs. These services help victims overcome the trauma of violence and sexual abuse in a safe environment that facilitates healing, maturation and growth.

TARGET POPULATIONS AND PROGRAMS

- Children (2-12 years) and Youth (13 -19 years) who have experienced violence and/or sexual abuse; **Family Counselling** or **Child & Adolescent Sexual Abuse (CASA) programs**;
- School aged children and youth who may be at-risk for adolescent/community violence such as bullying or dating violence; **Changing Attitudes: Building Healthy Relationships program**;
- Adults who have experienced childhood violence and/or sexual abuse and adults who may be leaving a violent relationship or who have experienced violence and/or sexual abuse; **Stopping the Violence and Healing Voices programs**.

These programs take place in our offices, I hope family centre and in the community at elementary schools.

PROJECT GOALS for 2006

- Reduce the waitlist for services (previous waitlists ranged from 2 to 6 months);
- Increase our agency's capacity to provide individual, family, and group therapy by 30%;
- Provide direct counselling and therapeutic support services to between 150 - 200 child, youth and adult family members affected by family violence and/or sexual abuse.

PROJECT INPUTS

Funding

- 66% of the Safer Places Project is funded by government contracts (Ministry of Children and Family Development and the Ministry of Community Services);
- 33% by a combination of the R. H. Webster Foundation, an Anonymous Donor (deceased, 2006 only), the Northshore Auto Mall and other agency fundraising initiatives including the Annual Winter Family Ball and Silent Auction
- 1% by municipal grants

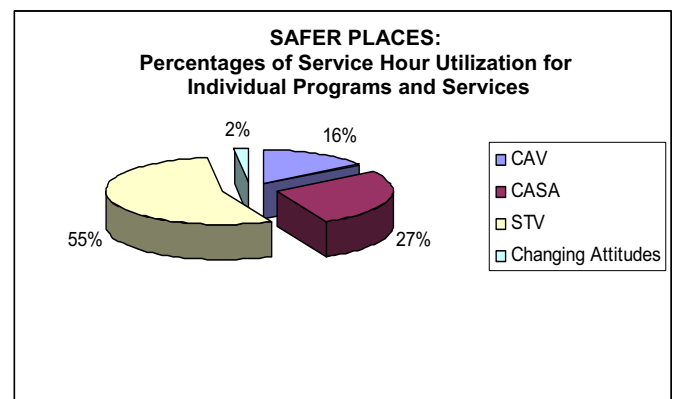
Staffing

- Clinical services are provided by Master's level, professionally registered (BCACC, AAMFT, CCC, and BASW) Clinical Counsellors/Social Workers with specializations in child, adult, couple and family counselling, and trauma counselling.

PROJECT OUTPUTS

In 2006, **5758 hours of direct services** were provided to **353 individuals**,¹ representing **293 families** from the North Shore community.

- Services included:
One-to-one, couple, and family counselling;
Support groups and group counselling; and
services on site as well as in the community.
- 55% of our work was with adult women survivors of violence and/or sexual abuse in the Stopping the Violence (STV) Program
- 27% of the service hours were in the Child and Adolescent Sexual Abuse (CASA) Program, and
- 16% of the service hours in the Children Affected by Violence (CAV) Program
- The Changing Attitudes: Building Healthy Relationships (CABHR) Program commenced in the fall and currently serves over 120 grade five students at three schools totalling over 600 hours of direct service.



A gender analysis of the individual programs and services that comprise the Safer Places Project reveals that there is a great need for violence and sexual abuse prevention and treatment services that support young girls and women in the North Shore community.

- Children Affected by Violence (CAV) Program served 28 girls and 18 boys who were between 2 to 12 years
- Child and Adolescent Sexual Abuse (CASA) Program served 52 child/adolescent females, compared to 25 child/adolescent males*.
- Adult women survivors of violence and/or sexual abuse in the Stopping the Violence (STV) Program represented 205 females over 19 years of age, including 5 women over the age of 65.

Family Services of the North Shore strives to ensure the accessibility of all its programs and services, particularly priority target populations such as individuals and families with low incomes.

- 70% of the women served had incomes of less than \$35,000 per year
- 44% of the women subsisting on incomes of less than \$15,000 per year
- 11% had incomes over \$65,000.

For a more comprehensive report please visit our web site at www.familyservices.bc.ca

¹ This number does not include an additional 120 grade 5 students served through the CABHR Program.

*we know that 30 of these young victims were under age 12, while 19 of those served were between 13 to 18 years of age. Smaller proportions of these clients were over 18 years, but had begun counselling in the CASA Program at a younger age.